

Versions of Freedom Matter

What is freedom to a worm? On a fishing hook or tunneling in a garden?

What is freedom to a bird? In a cage or in a tree in a field?

What is freedom to a Whale? Being held in a swimming pool that he can barely fit into or swimming in the ocean?

What is freedom to a child of God? Psalm 119:45 “I will walk at liberty for I seek your precepts.”

Our true freedom depends on discovering how we can give expression to our true nature. James tells his beloved brethren that "the royal law of liberty" is our calling.

Versions of Freedom on Father's Day 2022: John 8:32-36 06 17 2022

Liberty: 1. The condition of being not subject to restriction or control. 2. The right to act in a manner of one's own choosing.

Freedom: 1. The condition of being free of restraints. 2. liberty of a person from slavery, oppression, or incarceration (jail).

We are seeing and hearing strange notions of freedom regarding gender identity aren't we? A loud minority claim that they are not subject to the restriction of the very obvious biological birth genders—male or female.

Hannah Anderson made this shrewd insight regarding the connected crises of *fatherlessness* and *abortion*: “Generally speaking, men are physically stronger than women and so their natural temptation would be to use their strength to control women. We see this every time a man physically abuses a woman. We see it every time a man uses his power to harass or intimidate a woman. But we also see it every time a man walks away from a woman who is pregnant with his child. When he abandons her, he is taking advantage of the fact that an infant grows inside its mother and not its father. In a broken world where might makes right, the physical make up of a man's body gives him an advantage that a woman usually does not have.” And, “The biological differences between men and women are part of the reason abortion exists. Through the act of abortion, women mimic the same biological *freedom* that men possess naturally. After a child is conceived, a man may or may not choose to stay with the mother, but nothing physically binds him to her. And so, instead of shouldering the responsibility, many walk away. Unfortunately, instead of correcting this, abortion enables women to practice the same type of abandonment, which in turn continues and makes worse the cycle of not holding men responsible to care for the children they create. If there is no child, he's off the hook—**entirely free.**”¹

ICR: Horrors—Genesis 19:4-6 all over again only on a larger scale. Biden, Harris, Shummer, Pelosi, Garland, FBI, CIA—we demand!!!

1 Hannah Anderson *HUMBLE ROOTS* p. 92 Moody Press

Freedom is obeying the “royal law of liberty”², by the grace of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:1-4

The 5th commandment applied today: “Honor thy father and thy mother: That thy days may be long on the land which the LORD thy God gives you.” Exodus 20:12

I. Action specified: “honor” by “obeying”

Honor means weighty (“when E.F Hutton talks, people listen”), important, possessing distinction.

O_____ your parents as a child.

As you rise in age to adult years, re_____ your parents as you move on to independent adult life.

Assi_____ and repay as your parents age and need assistance:
I Timothy 5:4,16

II. Extent of the action specified: Colossians 3:20

“all _____”

chores, clothes, cars, curfew friends, television “_____ things”

Suppose a young person's parents really don't seem to have the whole picture? What if the parents don't really understand?

Luke 2:49: Here is a 12 year old young person with parents that don't really understand.

“subject” is a military term that means *line up in ranks under a leader or commander*.

² James 1:25;2:8 Mark 12:29-31

III. Motive for action specified: Colossians 3:20

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is _____
_____ to the LORD.

IV. Obstacles in the way of the specified action:

1. A culture of rebellion: the roles of parents and children are being reversed: The United Nations voice on *children's rights* is basically, “parents obey your children”.
2. Parental provocation—especially fathers: Ephesians 6:4 “...do not provoke your children to wrath....”
3. Parental weakness: I Samuel 3:13 “For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.”
4. Indwelling sin: I John 1:8; Galatians 5:16,17.

How to go forward from today—Father's Day 2022:

There are sins that have been committed, errors that we have made. There is also _____.

Make things right at the throne of grace where the _____ speaks: Hebrews 12:24.

Make things right in the family.

Freedom is obeying the royal law of liberty, by the grace of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you are not fulfilling the Royal Law by the grace of God in the power of the holy Spirit—you may have just put your finger on your lost joy and peace: Psalm 19:8a; Isaiah 48:17,18.

