

Independence Day In August

An August Freedom

1 Peter 2:13-17 (ESV)

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

The freedom promised by the world is a false freedom, it is a slavery that masquerades as liberty, a bondage that pretends it is boundless, and a prison that presents itself as paradise.

We must be vigilant that we do not fall into this false freedom.

Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

The Gospel grants us an august independence.

A freedom demonstrated by humble, willful, spirit-led service to others.

The freedom of humility

Philippians 2:4-8 (ESV)

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The humble woman is free because she is not enslaved to the lie that she deserves better.

The freedom of willingness

Luke 22:42 (ESV)

...saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

The willing man is free because he is not enslaved to the lie that he knows best.

The freedom of being Spirit-led

Galatians 5:18-25 (ESV)

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

The spirit-led person is free because they are not enslaved to the lie that desires of the flesh will satisfy them.

The freedom of service

Galatians 5:13-14 (ESV)

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The servants of Christ are free because they live in, by and through love.