I Peter 2:13-17

 *“Realizing Our Freedom”*

Introduction

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6c70hPa8iU>

1. Christians are ‘born free’. Satan’s desire is for the Christian to lose his or her freedom.

2. *Freedom isn’t to do as I please, but the power to do as I ought.*

3. How can we realize the freedom that is ours?

4. I Peter 2:13-17 we discover how: The source is from God.

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**I. OUR RESIGNATION 2:13-14**

*“For the Lord’s sake...”* ***Why am I doing what I am doing?***

***A. Submission***

Yield...stop fighting and struggling.

 **1.** It is easy to try and fight against what you cannot change.

 **2.** It is easy to forget that those over us are there by God’s design and permission.

 \*Who was the king? *Nero (54-68 A.D.)* was ruling Rome. He was evil and

 ruthless. This does not cancel out obedience to the office.

 \**Governors* were Festus and Felix placed there by the emperor. Their authority

 was to be accepted.

 **3.** *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man. “Every”* Christians are to obey the

 law of the land whether on federal, state or local level, from the Supreme Court to

 the traffic court, from income tax to parking regulations. He is not talking about the

 problem of believer’s response whenever government demands that which is

 contrary to the Christian faith.

 **4.** The government exists *to punish* and *to commend.* Without this anarchy is the result.

 **5.** He is speaking also of making an impact on the lost world (15).

 ***B. Sacrifice*** *for the Lord’s sake*

**1.** Why yield? Why stop fighting?

 **2.** He is *Lord* which means that He is the controller. He is sovereign. Do you

 believe it?**Is He really ‘Lord?’**

 **\***Much of our freedom is lost when we forget that He is Lord…we are not!

 \* (II Chron 7:14) *If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves*

 *and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked way then will I hear from*

 *heaven and heal their land…* America doesn’t need a new president, constitution,

 Supreme Court or congress. God’s people need to humble themselves, seek His

 face and turn from their wicked way.

 \*This is nothing less than a life completely sold out to Jesus Christ.

How can we realize the freedom that is ours? The source is from God.

**II. OUR REASON 2:15**

 *“For so is the will of God...”* ***What does God want me to do?***

1. ***We Bow To A Greater Authority***

*Continue to do right and you will put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.*

1. Freedom flows from doing God’s will.
2. The loss of freedom is when we ignore or violate God’s known will.
3. We don’t do what we want to do. **What does God want? What would please Him? DO IT!**
4. ***We Bring Glory to Another***
5. We help or hurt the cause of Christ by our actions or lack thereof.
6. By doing right, God is spoken well of and freedom is ours!
7. Let God take care of those who oppose you or speak evil and unkindly toward you.

Otherwise, you will lose your freedom.

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**III. OUR REST 2:16**

*As free…but slaves…As servants of God...* ***Who are you trying to please?***

***A. Our Possession*** *‘As Free’*

**1.** This began in I Peter (1:18-21, 23) when we were born again (2:9-10).

 **2**. (John 8:32) *You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*

(John 8:36) *If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.*

(Gal. 5:1) *Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty with which Christ hath made us free,*

 *and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

 ***Freedom to do what He wants…not misusing your liberty. It’s easy to do!!***

 ***B. Our Position*** *‘As slaves of God’*

***Are you living a life of obedience?***

1. One of the worst positions in Peter’s day was that of a slave. There were 50 million slaves in the Roman Empire. Slavery (one owning another) is bad. The slave may be treated like dirt with no rights and he or she was marked by their master.
2. The characteristic of a slave was that one continually said, ‘Yes’ to their owner.
3. As slaves we call Him…Master and Lord. The paradox is at that moment we realize our freedom. When He is Master and we are not we then experience freedom.

\*We go, come and do, not because we understand, but because He owns us!

\*He purchased us for a specific purpose and our satisfaction comes when we fulfill that purpose.

\*As Master: we continually say “Yes” to God.

\*What right does He have to absolute control? He bought us with a price…He gave Himself!

\*In Israel after 7 years a slave was set free. If desired, an awl was placed in the ear. This meant that there was such a love relationship between the slave and master that the slave would serve him forever.

\***Freedom comes at the point of slavery and absolute surrender.**

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**IV. OUR RESOLVE 2:17**

How is this ‘slavery’ carried out and evidenced?***Don’t use freedom for evil!***

1. ***Honor All*** *(Lost and Saved)*
2. Only one who is a slave to Jesus Christ can do this. ‘My rights’ often get in the road. We get hurt.
3. I need to see that person as Jesus sees.

\**Honor* means to value or esteem, to see worth in that individual.

\*In the eyes of God that man or woman has infinite value and worth. God sent His Son. He bled. He died for that person.

 ***B. Love the Brotherhood*** *(Christians)*

**1.** We can be touchy. This is not sentiment, but self-sacrifice.

 **2.** It means to esteem others better than ourselves. Only a slave to Jesus Christ can do

 this.

 **3.** We die so others can live. **We love what and who God loves!**

 ***C. Fear God***

**1.** It means to stand in awe of God. This comes at the point of total commitment as a

 slave where we give up ourselves and our plan for His.

1. We fear God only when we allow Him to be the possessor of our hearts through complete submission to Him. (Rom. 6:13)
2. ***Honor the King*** This ***is*** His will!
3. The king is to be shown respect as the supreme representative of civil authority. We have lost this in America.
4. Reverence God and honor the king…there is a vital distinction with the demand for emperor worship. Nero was wicked and evil, but his position was to be respected.
5. Let God take care of the wrongs, ignorance, tweets. Vote in the next election the one that most closely reflects your values as a believer. No one is perfect.
6. Do you want to lose your freedom…get all caught up in the politics of the day!!!

How can we realize the freedom that is ours?

**Live as unto the *Lord.***

**Yield totally to the will of God.**

**Freedom is ours only as we are *slaves to Jesus Christ.***

***Don’t use your freedom for evil but honor, love, and stand in awe…Let God take care of the rest!***

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