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Gal. 5:1 The Definition of Freedom

(v.1) "It was for freedom that Christ set us free."

I Q → what kind of freedom does Christ offer?

II Q → Just what is freedom?

I can't think of a more popular word in our society today - than "freedom"

Everyone wants ~~freedom~~ to be "free", but hardly anyone can agree about what freedom is

① In relativism which is so prevalent today freedom would be ~~define~~ defined as the absence of all restraint (i.e. "I'll be free when I can do what ever I want to do"

② The Bible defines freedom differently "Freedom is the ability to do what you were designed to do"
It is the power to live the way you were designed to live

Look at nature and you can see this ^{principle} principle at work e.g. what if a fish decided he wanted to be free from living in water + eating algae ^{or minnows} so he flopped up on the bank + demanded to eat a filet mignon. The fish would be out of his natural environment unable to function ~~and~~ or eat + would soon be dead

① Our culture believes almost passionately that freedom is the absence of all restraint. What about the mag. Self, the book "Pulling your own strings", "Looking out for No. 1" on the TV - the message that comes across daily from this culture is "The problem is not me, the problem is the other people + things that keep getting in my way so that I can't get what I want. If they weren't boxing me up then I could self-authenticate"

② I could be me - I could be fulfilled "I would be free"
That's the philosophy of life in our culture - our
relativistic way of living. That permeates what
you believe - you believe + live this way more
than you realize - even as Christians ~~because~~
why? The whole culture preaches this selfism
with a passion.

② The Bible says we are believing a lie (just
as surely as the fish sitting on the bank)
demanding a steak) - we are believing a lie
When we are unhappy + unfulfilled and decide
"What I need is ^{more} freedom from restraint so I can
~~get~~ take without restraints, so I can get all
that I can get - then I'll be happy". It's a lie
That kind of thinking, God says, is just
like the fish out of water - destructive

② Jesus said it over + over again "If you
make the goal of your life to take - to preserve
your self-life the result is going to be disaster
If on the other hand, you give up that whole
mind-set, if you give up that wrong definition
of freedom, if you make the goal of your life

② actually to lose yourself to God you give yourself
to Him + to others you will gain real life
When we think this Jesus also said

① The truth will make you free + you will be free indeed
You were designed by God to love - He made you in

① His image - which is LOVE - He gives of himself
lovingly. You were made in His image - you were
made to love, too - you are fulfilled only when
you are giving your life away - that is LOVE.

