

TEMPTATION 5 – FREE TO BE...

Introduction – Our personal freedom is our greatest gift and our greatest temptation. What would you be if you could be anything?

A. Our personal freedom initially leads to us becoming slaves.

John 8:33-35

1. The Jews had forgotten that their history was marked by freedom that led to slavery over and over again.
2. Our choice to sin results in the birth of an inner monster that seeks to dominate and control us.
3. When Paul reflected on this personal predicament he said, *What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through our Lord Jesus Christ...*(Romans 7:24-25).

B. Real freedom is found only in our voluntary service to God.

Romans 6:12-14

1. When we obey our evil desires we are making ourselves slaves to sin/Satan.
2. A great rescue by God is needed for us to escape slavery.
3. We can only remain free if we choose to become instruments of righteousness.

C. Real freedom is seen in our serving others out of love.

Galatians 5:13-14

1. We are tempted to become self-indulgent for self-fulfillment.
2. We can maintain our freedom in Jesus if we choose to serve others motivated by Christ-like love.
3. Freedom is paradoxical.

D. We are the most free and human when we are involved in the mission of God.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

1. Our mission is to win as many as possible for God.

2. We must make ourselves a slave to everyone to fulfill God's mission for us.
3. This is the effort we must make to save some and share in the gospel's blessings.

Conclusion – Freedom without Christ is impossible. The more we use freedom to indulge ourselves, the more enslaved we become. In contrast, the more we voluntarily serve others in obedience to God, the more free we become. The recent history of Iraq is an example that freedom alone is not sufficient.

John 8:31-32