

True Freedom

by Craig Manners

Dec 2014

Billions of people around the world devote their time, energy and resources to the pursuit of freedom.

Of course freedom is a good thing. People have always fought for freedom, in wars, in politics. Many of our forefathers died fighting for our freedom, and we should be very grateful for the freedom we have in Australia.

But the freedom the modern secular world, especially the developed countries we know as “The West”, are increasingly desperately clambering for today is not the sort of freedom worth fighting for. In fact it is a type of non-freedom, it is a lie, a deception. It is really slavery dressed up as freedom. You see slavery is often deceptive. No one willingly enters into slavery do they? So, to enslave requires either force or deception.

People have always had causes to fight for. Some are worthy and worth fighting for, like abolishing slavery or apartheid or the mass murder of millions of human babies every year. Others are dressed up as “human rights” or “civil rights” and promoted as just and worthy causes to fight for, but they are nothing of the sort. A current case in point is the way the youth of the West especially have fallen for the lie that destroying the vital institutions of traditional marriage and the family is a just cause worth fighting for.

With the use of the mass media, TV sitcoms, movies, popular music and virtually pornographic YouTube video clips the militant homosexual movement are trying to force themselves onto our society and destroy the foundations which have made us free and strong. Sadly, they seem to be succeeding and have put our true freedom in Australia and the West under immediate threat.

Freedom and truth requires defending by every generation. Our current generation, the one you are growing up into, is unfortunately increasingly at risk of becoming over-run by this great deception. As our forefathers had to go to war to defend our freedom, so too will you, but thankfully, hopefully, in a different type of warfare, not so much with guns but with words, God’s Word in particular.

A big part of the problem for our generation is that the word “freedom” has become widely misunderstood and misused. The majority culture of our day understands freedom to mean the freedom to do whatever an individual wants, basically without restraint. Unfortunately our politicians seem to have been hoodwinked into believing this as well and we are reaping what has been sown.

Defeat in a battle can sometimes come down to such a small, seemingly simple or harmless thing such as an advancing army running out of water or petrol, or a small mosquito spreading malaria among the troops, or a word used in the wrong way.

Unrestrained freedom is actually a form of slavery. True freedom requires virtue and there is no virtue in unrestrained sexual immorality, or in harming other human beings, no matter how young or how old, or in making it easy for drug dealers or dealers in porn or other sexual forms of enslavement to enslave our nation's children, the weak or the poor.

In June 1978, speaking at Harvard University, Soviet freedom fighter and winner of a Nobel Prize in literature, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, not only argued against the worldview which had enslaved his own country through Communism, but he prophetically assessed a major flaw and deception in the prevailing worldview being embraced by the West. He said that a “destructive and irresponsible freedom had been granted boundless space.” This is even more so today.

The West has exchanged belief in unchanging truth, and a proper understanding of true freedom, for basically an anything goes version of freedom, which in reality is slavery calling itself freedom. It is a ruthless deceptive legalism restraining true freedom and enslaving those who thought they were fighting for freedom.

The main area that the irresponsible adults, who are promoting these self-centered, damaging movements are inflicting major damage, is on children. No one seems to be thinking about our society's children.

Freedom to kill, destroy and damage our society through the selfish demands of sophisticated bullies, and the resulting harm to children and our communities, is no freedom at all.

When a supposedly responsible politician expends time, energy and resources promoting something like amending a law to make it normal for a man to marry another man, and to do the sexual acts they do to each other, they are not being considerate of the damage they are causing our children.

Children discuss it in playgrounds and are influenced by our leaders to try it or to let homosexual pedophiles do it to them. It is difficult enough for children and especially teenagers to grow up, but to have to deal with this sort of thing is close to child abuse inflicted by supposedly responsible adults.

As with adults in our society who, with good conscience, oppose changing the definition of marriage to appease the homosexual movement, it is the same with children across Australia. Adults and children alike are being discriminated against, bullied and blacklisted for wanting to keep traditional marriage as it is, between a man and a woman for life for the raising of children for the good of children and society.

I would like to encourage you to grow in your ability to see through the lies of these movements. Question them. Look at their fruit. Filter the wisdom of the world through God's trustworthy and unchanging word, the Bible. Make a choice about who you would rather trust, God or man.

Be smart and discerning. See the truth through the fog of deception which saturates our society's TV shows, newspapers, Hollywood movies, YouTube music videos, news programs, social media and politics.

Think through what they are promoting. Work out these false worldviews until you see the bad fruit they produce and compare them with the good fruit which is produced from a life of following God's ways and trusting Jesus.

Not all things are good for you. Many will try to enslave you in different ways. Don't fall for the lie that these people will tell you, such as, “You won't know until you try it,” or “Try it you might like it”, or, “You are born that way.” Drug dealers and the sexually immoral will say these things to try to get you

addicted. These are just different ways of saying what was said to Eve in the garden when she was tempted to eat the forbidden fruit, remember, "Did God really say that". The slave makers plant seeds of doubt and try to lead us astray. Don't believe it, stick to God's ways.

Those who will make you addicts and enslave you to things which destroy rather than bring life, satisfaction, happiness and fulfilment, will call you through the media, through friends, through a YouTube music video, at university, on a public bus, or through a contact on social media, to do things which will enslave you, things like trying cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, pornography, sexually immoral acts, and maybe later on to think that illicit sex, adultery, or divorce is an easy solution to some marriage difficulties, or that an abortion will be beneficial.

But please resist them and look at the fruit that they produce: AIDS, STDs, mental illness, depression, sickness, regret, torment, suicide, devastated parents and siblings, broken relationships, broken families and homes, destroyed careers, poverty, high community burdens, increased taxes on hard working citizens to pay the health costs.

See them for the empty lies they are. Turn away from them and do not look back.

Freedom is not being able to do what we want, it is living according to the authority structures put in place by our Creator, for our good, and by us knowing and loving God as we do so.

It is ultimately foolish to say, "There is no God, and therefore I will live however I want, and no-one will tell me what to do, I will do it my way, ruled by no authority apart from my own desires!" This is not freedom. It will lead to chaos for such a person and all around them.

Imagine driving on a freeway at peak traffic hour if there were no recognised authority or if everyone was just rebelling against the road rules. Or a train going off the tracks which act as its authority structure to restrain its direction for the good of those on board and those around the tracks! In the same way children are to obey the authorities placed over them, such as parents, teachers and the government (but only as far as they uphold God's ways).

A very wise man named Paul, who lived two thousand years ago, said, "For you, dear friends, have been called to live in freedom-not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love." (Gal.5:13)

The battle is one of ideas, of worldviews, it is one of trusting God or man, of defending God's truth against the father of lies, the great deceiver we know as Satan. The battle is ultimately the same one started in the Garden of Eden, where Satan deceived Eve by planting a seed of doubt and enticing Eve to disobey God. Adam and Eve lost their freedom that day as a consequence, and all mankind has suffered ever since. The battle between freedom and slavery, between truth and deception has been raging ever since.

However the great news is that Jesus has overcome the world. He has secured the final victory, ensuring freedom cannot ultimately be taken from those who are on His side. Those still enslaved mock at this, while those set free rejoice. Seek Him and trust Him and you will be free indeed.

All of us have been affected or damaged in one way or another by wrong living, by following the wrong path, doing the wrong things, succumbing to the temptations which come to all of us, being deceived to elevate the bad as if it is good, the dangerous as if it were safe, and having to endure the fruit of such living, the costly consequences of our rebellion. Fear not! There is great news in the powerful truth that Jesus has paid the price for wrong living, He has taken it all upon Himself and offers true freedom to all who call on His name. Not just freedom, but removal of burdens, regrets, spiritual healing, forgiveness, fixed relationships and abundant true life both here and now and beyond into eternity.

To learn more about Jesus and His gift of true life [click here](#).

We have been reconciled to our Creator through God himself in the form of Jesus Christ taking on himself the punishment justly due for our sins (our mistakes, brokenness, rebellion, and disobedience to the way he made us to live, the whole lot). Only God could pay the price for our freedom, and this is what he has done.

Yet the battle rages on for a time, as Satan thrashes around in his death throws trying to cause maximum damage on his way out.

As Revelation 19:19-20 makes clear, Satan, the beast, and the kings of the earth who gather together to make war against Jesus, will be defeated and captured. These earthly powers, I think we can say, include not just anti-God governments, and legislators, but the powerful forces of modernity such as the entertainment industry, the main stream media, militant homosexual lobby groups, ISIS (and the other forms of militant Islam) and all the other forces gathering now to make war against Jesus. They all shake their fists at God and try to push him away and out of their lives. Of course they cannot succeed, and true freedom will only be found for those on Jesus side.

The length of time given to these powers to inflict their suffering on the earth only reflects Jesus amazing mercy, in that by delaying their inevitable final defeat and judgement he is giving those who are his, more time to turn from the empty façade, the thin veneer of falseness of this world, to come to him and find true life.

There is nothing new under the sun, so what we see happening today is not new and we certainly do not need to be worried to death about it, as we know that Jesus has ultimately defeated Satan, and that while he is still thrashing around in his death throws, he will ultimately meet his end.

Human history has had many periods of darkness imposed on it, such as, just in relatively recent history, Nazism, Communism, Apartheid, ISIS, the current attempt to destroy the traditional family and marriage (the foundational structures of a free world), and the mass murder of millions of babies in the womb in the West (where is the babies "freedom"?). These have and will all been brought to an end. Therefore while we need to speak up against such deceptions, such threats to true freedom, and while we need to actively try to defeat them, we do not need to live in fear. They will be overcome.

But we do still need to live through this world, and so we need to be aware of what is going on. You will need to be on guard, as unfortunately, you are growing up in an era where the battle against true freedom by these militant anti-freedom movements is at its fiercest, perhaps even since the time of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). In fact the speed with which these armies are gathering to make war against Jesus is staggering, and the gates of the West itself are on the verge of being breached.

These movements are deceivers of the highest order. They proclaim loudly and proudly that they are fighting for freedom, but the so-called “freedoms” which they are proposing and trying to force on us, through legislation, and bullying by and through the media, include things such as:

- 1- The freedom to be the centre of the universe;
- 2- The freedom to choose who can and can't be born;
- 3- The freedom to choose when they die or when others should die;
- 4- The freedom to divorce the husband or wife of their youth on a whim, and to destroy the lives of children in the process;
- 5- The freedom to do things like “marry” someone of one's own sex; (As the old saying goes, “In the beginning God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve.” It is a nonsense among the highest of possible nonsenses yet the majority of the world seems to be under a spell).
- 6- The freedom to legally take dangerous drugs at will. (And of course this makes sense because drugs make slaves- addicts- out of people, which is what Satan ultimately wants.)
- 7- So called “Sexual Freedom” to do whatever one wants to get sexual satisfaction, which like everything else designed to enslave, never truly satisfies anyway.

The types of so-called freedoms being demanded by these movements, and some political parties, include abhorrent things such as the “freedom” to have sex with animals. And of course, why not, after all if you stand for nothing you will fall for everything.

These so-called freedoms are really nothing of the sort. They are a deception designed to lead people into slavery. Just look at the fruit of such things, they do not lead to good things, they lead to slavery, to death, despair, destruction, sadness, brokenness, mental sickness, depression and suicide. That is not the fruit of real freedom. But it is the fruit the enslavers are working to achieve.

One of the quickest ways for Satan to win is to destroy the foundations of a free society: belief in the creation account of Genesis, the traditional family, marriage between a man and a woman, and to enslave people in their millions through addictions to drugs, pornography, sex, computer games, social media, and entertainment. These are some of the major weapons being used by the armies of men as they gather to make war against Jesus.

Many of these so-called lifestyles of choice, are defended by their proponents as “not hurting anyone else so why can't I do it.” That of course is another deception. Our whole society pays the price for increased health care costs due to the increase in sexually transmitted diseases, which are rampant in homosexual communities, not to mention the millions of children left fatherless and motherless because of the spread of AIDS in those communities. Then there is the increasing occurrence of drug addicts clogging up our ambulances and emergency departments at hospitals because of drug use related issues, not to mention the drain on our health care system from the massive increase in abortions, mental health issues, depression and suicides. We all pay for this. The consequences of living against God's ways is always bad and always costly.

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There is only one true freedom and that is the freedom one gets from putting their trust in Jesus, having their sins forgiven, their guilt and shame removed, being freed from slavery to sin and this fallen world, receiving eternal life, and living this earthly life according to God's ways not mans.

"God has made everyone as they are for a reason, and He does not make mistakes. People often get so concerned with the way they look that they fail to understand that God can use them just the way they are. God has a purpose for each of us, and it's our duty to find out what His purposes are and then to fulfil them" Dobson, (153, Adolescence). Don't get side-tracked by the things that this passing world values such as looks or money. Your value is not found in these things, your value is beyond measure because you are made by God in His image, it does not matter what you look like.

I would like to encourage you to seek freedom from such concerns, to seek freedom from being a slave to how you look, how much money you have, whether your house is better than your friends. Seek first God's kingdom and He will take care of everything you need and more. He is a generous God.

Be generous with your life, with your time, with your resources. God is the One who can replenish whatever you expend and He wants you to do certain things with your time and resources, so find out what they are. Read God's word to hear what they are. It is not rocket science and we do not need to wait for a billboard with a special message from God. He has revealed He has a heart for people, He loves people, so we should love people. Yes, even Nazis, Communists, atheists, the lost, the weak, the poor, the confused.

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One of the greatest needs of our day is for God to raise up great statesmen and women, leaders with civil courage, a love for God and a proper knowledge and understanding of God's unchanging truth and word in the Bible, who can stand up for truth and freedom and restrain the spread of worldviews which are enslaving our children. In speaking to you today I wholeheartedly pray that God will raise up many such statesmen from among you.

Seek first God's kingdom and live God's way and all you need will be given to you. This is the best way.