

Can you define FREEDOM?

Everybody today is obsessed with their right to freedom. From the freedom to information to Freddy Mercury wanting to “Break free,” to a young bloke who is passed out after exercising his freedom to indulge. But what is freedom really?

Freedom to some is the ability to do what I want, when I want, how I want, with whom I want as long as no one gets hurt. If freedom then is the absence of boundaries, where does chaos start? Or what happens when your freedom and my freedom clashes? (Think about your neighbour’s all-night party!)

Freedom according to the dictionary is: 1). “the power or right to act, speak or think freely; 2). A special privilege or right of access”. With freedom comes responsibility. At the last citizenship ceremony, new citizens were given the freedom to the right of access to Australian citizenship, but limited to the conditions that make Australia Australia! Under these conditions every new citizen has the freedom, the power to act, speak and think freely within the boundaries of Australian law and customs.

Therefore, freedom cannot be the absence of boundaries because such is not freedom, but anarchy. When a baby crawls out the front door, why does a parent pick the baby up, limiting the baby’s freedom to crawl in to the street? Because boundaries protect us from harm and create mutual respect towards one another!

To me, following Jesus is exactly the same. We find our true expression of freedom in the LOVE that our Father has for us. Boundaries define, like a parent to a child, his deep love for us – as it was expressed through the healing that took place through Jesus Christ his Son! I have been set free so I can live free! What about you?

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