

Part Three
Living the Good Life Series

“FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS”

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

EXODUS 20: The Ten Commandments of life:

That is the MORAL CODE; the code was set as standard of life that would guide them, both as individuals and as a community. This code, if applied to their lives, would take them out of slavery into a personal relationship with their God and those around them. By living according to this CODE they would live as **FREE PEOPLE; Interdependent upon God and each other.**

Blessings for Obedience:

Deuteronomy 28:1: If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set **you high above all the nations on earth.** ²All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

Curses for Disobedience:

Deuteronomy 28: ⁴³The alien who lives among you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower. ⁴⁴He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, but you will be the tail.

- We live in a FREE SOCIETY: Democracy: REPUBLIC: given to us by GODS GRACE.... And by grace you live in this country: but those who live in this type of government by necessity have to be more **self governing** then those who are not free. Paul makes this point in **Galatians 5:13-15.**

- **David Wilkerson “ Urgent Message to America” 2009**

FREEDOM is the ability to do what is right and live in such a way that your life supports and encourages the freedom of others. Freedom gives you the ability be all that God has created you to be. A slave who has no freedom does not have the ability, nor opportunity afforded to him/her, to be all that God called them to be. That being said, freedom, true freedom, which is the ability to be all that God has called you to be; **is never to be expressed at the cost of others.**

....**1 Corinthians 8:8-13 (NIV)**¹³*Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.*

POINT: The founding fathers knew that freedom is not only the ability to do what is right but it is also having a deep sense of community **and civic duty** to those around you. They knew that freedom is not lived in a **vacuum**. It's not doing **what I want when I want it**...It's not just satisfying my own personal needs. **Freedom** is always lived in consideration of others, sometimes at cost to yourself. If a sense of community and civic duty is lost then freedom is lost, and the pursuit of **happiness is** not possible.

- **Happiness is** living with a set of moral/ethical values that guide your life. Happiness is a gift of God when we live according to his moral/ethical standards given to us in his Word. **Ecclesiastes 2:26 (NIV)**

Galatians 5:1: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourself be burdened again by a yoke, of slavery:

SO IT **for freedom** that Christ has set us free.....it is because of Christ and by his grace that we are FREE and have the ability to live according to the spirit of the law. We are no longer SLAVES to the SINFUL NATURE.....we are **free...**