



Genesis 4:6-7 *“Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”*

The choice Part one: Freedom

I mentioned to you in a previous part of this study that God gave everyone a choice to believe. Although, it's his desire and wish that every one of his creation say yes, freedom does not work that way. We are free to choose. God has never and will never put a gun to people's heads. It's a shame that Christian history is littered with terrible crimes against people. I understand why many people avoid religion in general. The past has been marred by fundamental freedoms being taken away from people in the name of Christ. Yes, people were murdered because they refused to believe. I will insist that you should take a second look at Christianity. God is not the culprit here. The God of the Bible gave people choices. Bad Christian practice has, at times, hurt those God wanted to help. He gives people second chances. He is nothing like human religious history would suggest.

Our God is not a fan of abuse. He is not a fan of using his name in a terrible way. I love these three verses.

Mark 9:38-40 *“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.” 39 “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one*

who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, 40 for whoever is not against us is for us.”

There are several other instances of the disciples trying to rebuke children from coming to Jesus, yet Jesus wanted none of it. This is our God. Ask yourself this question “does God have the freedom to visit us Himself?” I could go further. Is a Holy God able to be with sinful creatures? God appeared to Moses (of the Bible) in the form of a burning bush and he put his hand across Moses so that His Spirit could pass by. That’s as close as you can get to God. This divine Spirit is all powerful, yet he is repelled by sin. I suppose allergic to evil. There are two choices for God. One is to destroy a messed-up creation and start over. The second is to find a way. A God of freedom and chances would find a way.

So, God cannot come down and live among us himself. Someone with a phobia or allergic reaction is in the same boat. Being in the presence of your greatest opposite is tough to do. That does not stop God. He decides to come down and become a human baby. To live among us in human form. He gives everyone the freedom to choose God. His disciples were not the best of the best yet he chose them. The story of God is all about finding a way to bring us all back to heaven. He spoke to women in a day when women were second class. He spoke to Samaritan Jews when they were second class. The children, outcast, sick, and lame were rejected by many. Jesus visited them all. When people refused them, Jesus did not. That is our God.

True love has the ability to love where love is not warranted. It’s grows when love is not earned. People do not love everything they make or everyone they meet. Yet God does. I would even say he passionately desires need to. Yet, love is nothing without the freedom to do so. It works that way. In essence communism promotes the love of people but it exists without freedom. Jail exists to keep people safe from evil but it does so without freedom. You can’t

mandate love behind bars. They need to freely choose to love. Yet, not everyone chooses love.

That's why we have jails. God does not jail us until we love him, He waits because we are free to choose.

What will you choose? God said he is the creator. Now is your time to choose. Did he do it? Did he create us all? God is asking you to love unconditionally like he does. Can you choose to do that too? Freedom cannot be legislated. It can't be ordered. As I said, jail does not work if love is absent. Freedom comes with a price. The price is a choice. Everyone talks about Jesus dying on a cross. He chose to do that for our sins. Yet, throughout that story people chose sides. His disciple Judas chose and a Roman leader named Pontus Pilot chose. Reading the Bible is a choice but it's a bigger choice than you think. God is staring you in the heart. Are you open? Do you want to love more? Will you give God the freedom to help you? Is the world that you know easy to understand? Are you willing to let God show you more? This choice is now standing right before you. What will you do with God?

Revelation 3:20 *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."*

Luke 22:34 *"Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."*