

## **The Choice**

There is a choice. It's either: be good or bad. People could say that there are many other choices in life. Yet, in each thing before us is a choice. Use it for good or bad. Our lives will be forever changed by these choices too. These days people want forgiveness. They want to be given chances to get it right. Yet, the action is to be forgotten. Someone murders eight people and gets early parole. The compassion for the villain seems to supersede the victims. They lost their choice to live. The murderer? He or she gets a chance to make it all good.

In death, we want God to give us what we want. It's his planet but it's our planet. We have rights. It's strange because what we own is ours. It's not likely that we would allow others to come live at our house because they want to. They have to ask and we have to give them permission. But, with God it's different. We want Him to allow us the right to overrule Him. Our rights should be more important than other rights. I get heaven because I want it. Funny, you don't get that choice in life. Your rights are dictated by circumstances, fate, and a host of other factors.

I heard a story today about being a slave to good. We are free to choose to be bad. There is freedom to do wrong. If you choose God then it's a choice for good. However, that choice makes you a slave to God. His way is the good way but you're shackled to it. The bad way is free, but it will cost you everything. Being a slave to good will cost you nothing because Jesus paid for it. People want freedom from laws and rules. They want the freedom to do as they please. They say that being a slave to God is bad. The shackles of goodness are cumbersome and restrictive. To truly be free is to have the right to be bad.

What does God have to say? 2 Corinthians 3:17 “*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*” The world says that freedom is the choice to do good or bad. The world also says it’s just a choice. We are not born bad, but society makes us choose badly at times. We are the victim. God says we are free to choose. Yet, if we choose Him, there are certain expectations. Expectations to be kind, moral, just, and loving. Why? It’s because what God expects from Himself, He expects from those who call themselves Christ followers. God says people are a slave to sin. The world says Christians are a slave to an unjust God that expects us to be good.

The slave part is freedom. It’s odd, I know. We can choose to follow Jesus’ ways. We can choose to not do bad things. Some call that slavery because we should have the right to do bad things. You see, the world’s people can’t make the right choice because there are only two choices: good or bad. We have to choose one. Eat too much or eat just enough. Speed in a car or drive within the law. Give a girl body right or abuse her. Many choices are made daily in the lives of people all over the world. So many would choose to have freedom to do bad. Why is that considered good?

Yet, we could be a slave to goodness. To take the bad choice out of the decision making. Do good for your friends. Be loving to a neighbor. Be kind in all we do. Strangely to most, it looks bad, yet it’s the good thing to do. There was a recent book that asked the question. If you could get away with it, would you kill your neighbor. I think over 60% said they would do it. This pandemic taught me that people are not that nice. We are not all in it together. I thought humanity was supposed to head towards the common good. That Star Trek was the final goal. To help the universe be better. It seems humanity wants to have the choice not to help, be kind, or have compassion.

Yet, on earth, people do help. They are not all Christian either. Yet, those people are far and few between. Most of the world would turn on a dime if offered a choice. A choice to do as they want and free from repercussions. The odd part is other people's freedom to do unto you. We don't like that. My choices should be legal because I am free to choose. The conundrum these days is who has the most powerful rights? The liberal says everyone does. Within that the murderer has the right to kill just as the victim has the moral obligation to allow that choice. Makes sense to me!

Why did God make a human race that by and large hates Him? Why give people the freedom to choose good or evil? I think it comes down to freedom. It's easy to hate but hard to love. It's easy to do bad when everyone else is doing it. Yet, it's hard to do good when the norm is bad. Jesus said only a few will find the path to heaven. I would even say the path to goodness. We like to think the world is generally good. Really? Have you lived in this world over the last two years? What happened when the pandemic was over? Crime and war came back with a vengeance. Inflation and gouging the customer came back with a vengeance. I could observe that the choice to choose the bad came back with a vengeance.