

I PETER 2:13-17

FREEDOM ON LIFE-SUPPORT

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM

1. Freedom, from a biblical view, is connected to **FAITH** in Jesus.

...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36 (NIV)

In Jesus we are freed from the **FAILURES** that cloud our lives to become the persons God created us to be.

In Jesus we are freed from the bondage of self-centered living to **FOCUS** on God's interest.

Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Psalm 142:7 (NIV)

2. Freedom allows for the possibility of **ABUSE**.

It is possible to **EVADE** our responsibility.

It is possible to use freedom as a **COVER-UP** for evil.

Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil...

1 Peter 2:16 (NIV)

3. Freedom is **CONTAGIOUS**.

Followers of Jesus are members of a community who affirm freedom for **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**.

To live in freedom conveys the need for personal responsibility and when we temper that with Christ-like love it is **INFECTIOUS**.