

The Nature of Freedom

A. How many of us are truly free?

B. 2 Types of Freedom

1. _____ Freedom - distinction between "freedom from" something (negative freedom) and "freedom to" something (positive freedom)
 - a. The reason we want freedom *from* external oppressors is to have the freedom _____ do certain things
 - b. Belief - If you can change your external, oppressive circumstances, then you will have the freedom to move towards whatever vision it is you have for your life
 - c. Do you have a vision of your life without external oppressors and how wonderful it will be someday when those external circumstances are no longer a burden to you?
 - d. Belief - You can find true freedom if and when you are able to make external changes to your _____
 - e. It is all about gaining freedom from a certain, oppressive, external state, so that you will have the freedom to go do something else; but, some of the brightest minds in the history of the world have said that freedom from oppressive, external circumstances really has little to do with true freedom
2. "True" Freedom - only found when you have inner autonomy and _____ over your internal state
 - a. True freedom is characterized by your ability to master your internal state and to find internal stability, peace, and _____, regardless of your external circumstances
 - b. Virtue – being filled with the spiritual gifts, like love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control, hope
 - c. Get your internal state, the state of your soul, in the right place, and even in the worst of times, you will find that you still have the freedom to experience peace, and hope, and love and joy and grace

Examples/Other Notes: (Mark 5, Garasene Demoniac)

1. external a. to d. circumstances 2. mastery a. virtue