

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith  
Audio Script – June 25, 2009

Encased alongside the Declaration of Independence in the National Archives, are the documents identified as our nation's Bill of Rights. These define & interpret our freedoms in light of our nation's constitution. Paul defines the rights of freedom for the believer in Christ as we focus on today's Templates of Truth.

Freedom is not just a patriotic term, but one the Apostle Paul often used in Scripture to describe the life believers experience in relationship with Christ. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul said, *"It was for freedom that Christ set us free."* (5:1). Freedom in Christ means freedom from the condemnation of sin, the liberty of walking in God's will and ways, and the freedom associated with eternal life in heaven. Freedom is not a quality of life to be taken for granted, however, and especially not one to be abused. Paul also urges, *"For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh."* (5:13). Freedom without limitations or restraint is freedom out of control and certainly not the kind of Biblical freedom Paul espouses.

The problem with our world today is that it wants to segregate the freedom of democracy from the freedom of theocracy. That is a Biblical violation! Freedom without commitment and adherence to God's Word & ways is disobedience and rebellion. The rebel mind is one that sees freedom as not being subject to any rules, regulations or accountability. It defines freedom as being at liberty to do whatever it wants, anytime it chooses, with anyone and in any way it desires, and is not prohibited by any measure of standard except that which is clearly in violation of criminal law. When that is the way freedom is expressed and experienced, a nation becomes unglued at the moral and ethical seams.

A word often associated with freedom is "rights." Since we are a free people and freedom is held by many as a virtue without limitations, individual rights become the guiding force that dictates behavior and lifestyle. Anyone or anything that seeks to impede such behavior or lifestyle becomes a violation of personal rights. America's political & judicial systems have become obsessed with the determination to uphold individual rights in the name of democratic freedom. More than anything else, this compulsion has been the impetus through which our nation's moral climate continues to decay.

A young woman who becomes pregnant because of unrestrained passion and negligent health measures has the right to abort her baby if she feels the birth of that child would complicate and disrupt her goals in life. A person who has just been diagnosed with a terminal illness has the right to assisted suicide by a medical professional if he or she doesn't want to endure the suffering of treatment or natural death. A person who declares his sexual orientation as other than that which is naturally defined has the right to "gender transformation" or to openly practice his or her homosexual lifestyle with all the rights extended to heterosexual relationships, including marriage, social benefits and political accommodations. A movie maker has as much right to produce a pornographic film as another to produce a traditional Hollywood classic. A person who chooses not to accept the God of Christianity has the right to believe in Buddha,

Mohammed, John Smith, a stone, a star or some popular philosophy of life propagated on network talk shows.

Paul would define these tendencies as *deeds of the flesh*, for he mentions specifically *immorality, impurity, sensuality and idolatry* (5:19). Paul's admonition, again, was not to use freedom or individual rights to provide opportunity for the fulfillment of the desires and demands of our flesh. The prevalent mindset of American democratic freedom, however, decries such a principle as a violation of individual rights and defends such claim under the guise of its insistence on the "separation of church and state." No one, accordingly, has the right to dictate anyone else's right by imposing their own spiritual or religious beliefs. By removing God as the standard, human desires become the standard for what I have a right to do and experience.

Jesus said that as the end of time approaches, *lawlessness will increase* (Matthew 24:12). That means that less and less of God and His laws will be upheld and observed, and more of man's fleshly desires will be served. The provisions made through unrestrained rights and freedom will contribute further to our moral decay by making accommodations to other indulgences in order not to be inconsistent with its own guiding tenants. Accordingly, the pedophiles will demand the same rights of freedom and expression that the homosexual agenda and pornographer gains. A teenager whose life is shattered because his girlfriend broke up with him will demand the same right for assisted suicide that the cancer patient got. The spiraling plunge into global perversion and evil will not stop until Jesus returns and defeats Satan and his legion of demons. Until then, God needs Freedom Fighters to defend and stand for His truth. Are you one of them?

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.