

# JAMES A BROTHER OF JESUS

I, James, am writing this letter. I serve God and the  
Lord Jesus Christ.

...

# JAMES A BROTHER OF JESUS

## (PAST WEEKS REVIEW)

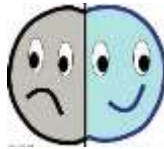
We looked at James history as a brother of Jesus and leader in the church



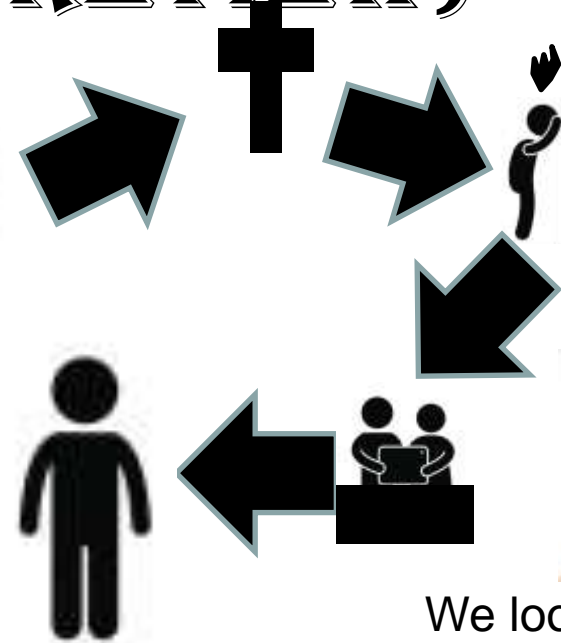
We considered the 12 tribes and 10 lost tribes



We looked belief that is not double-minded



we looked wisdom from God that is not IQ or schooling ...and learned that the fear[respect] of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge



We looked at Anger and Words

we considered humility and pride and the fact that life is not easy but we do it with faith in God

We asked.... **Do the people in our community believe we live with Integrity for Jesus sake!**

# Why is “obey” often considered such a bad word ?



Obey the law...

WHY?

What is the law anyhow and  
why should I obey it?

**PERSONAL  
INTEREST**

**MORAL  
DUTY**



**"I was not born to be free---  
I was born to adore and obey."**

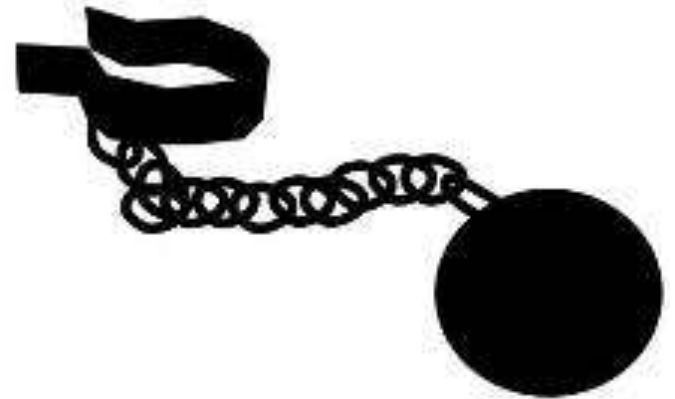
**~ C.S. Lewis**

# HOW IMPORTANT IS FREEDOM?



If a small child doesn't obey their parent what would the chances be for their survival?

**Parents protect and look after their children**



# HOW IMPORTANT IS FREEDOM?

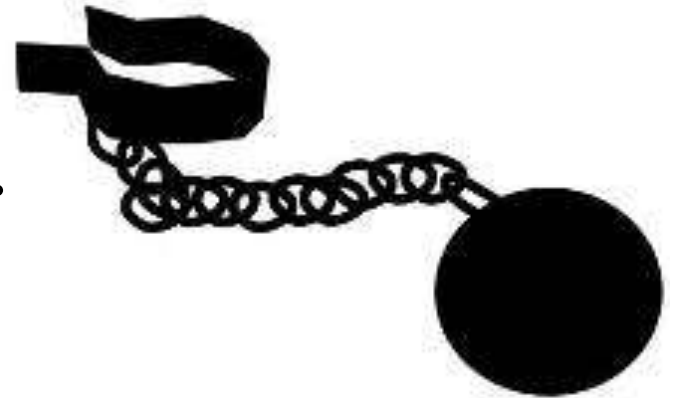


**Are these statements of love?**

**Yes!**

**Are these statements restrictive?**

**Maybe, Let's think about that!**



**Parents protect and look after their children and it normally starts with statements like...**

**"Don't put that in your mouth!"**

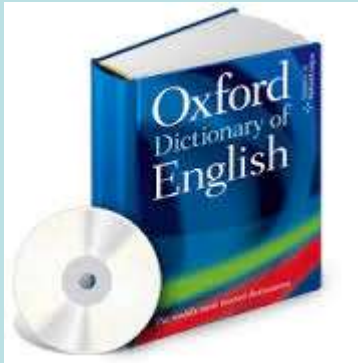
**"Come away from the fire!"**

**"Don't go near the edge!"**

**and similar warnings doesn't it?**

# What is **FREEDOM** really?

Is it **ability to do what we want when we want without any restriction being applied by the circumstances?**



The oxford dictionary defines freedom as **“The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants”**

**Does a child have that freedom?**  
**Not really!**

**Are they safe loved and given full opportunity to develop?**  
**Normally, Yes!**





**Totally open ability to choose anything at any time does not benefit anyone.** On the roads if there were no rules we would have carnage. Similar in the air and in shipping lanes.





**To have freedom, we need to agree to work together under certain constraints.**

**Freedom is not the lack of rules and law, but having the right or correct constraints on our life.**

**That's why Jesus makes bold statements like "Do not break even one of the least important commandments. And do not teach others to break them. If you do, you will be called the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. Instead, practice and teach these commands. Then you will be called important in the kingdom of heaven."**

**Matthew 5**

*I guess we do sometimes break the commandments don't we?*

## GOD

- 1: Do not worship any other gods
- 2: Do not make any idols
- 3: Do not misuse the name of God
- 4: Keep the Sabbath holy

## MAN

- 5: Honour your father & mother
- 6: Do not murder
- 7: Do not commit adultery
- 8: Do not steal
- 9: Do not lie
- 10: Do not covet

# JAMES 4

“God opposes those who are proud.  
But he gives grace to those who are  
not.” (Proverbs 3:34)

<sup>7</sup> So obey God. Stand up to the devil. He will  
run away from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God, and  
he will come near to you. Wash your hands,  
you sinners. Make your hearts pure, you who  
can't make up your minds.

**OBEY GOD!**

**STAND UP TO  
THE DEVIL!**

<sup>9</sup> Be full of sorrow. Cry and sob. Change your  
laughter to crying. Change your joy to  
sadness. <sup>10</sup> Bow down to the Lord. He will lift  
you up.

<sup>11</sup> My brothers and sisters, don't speak against  
one another. Anyone who speaks against  
another believer speaks against the law. And  
anyone who judges another believer judges  
the law. When you judge the law, you are not  
keeping it. Instead, you are acting as if you

# What is FREEDOM really?



**God has given us constraints that are there to give us true freedom,**

**our problem is that there is another force at work inside us trying to get us to rebel,**

**reject this freedom and conjure up our own meanings of freedom.**

*Any examples we can think of?*

# is **FREEDOM** really?

God's meaning is absolute

and if he truly made this universe,

which we as Christians contend he did,

he knows exactly what is true freedom and what is not.



Can we think of how  
this can benefit us if  
true?



**Who's choice is it to obey?**

**Ours!**

Notice it is our choice to obey, like it is the child's to listen to their parent. We are not wiser than God any more than a child in the first few years of life is wiser than the parent.

**Incorporating God's wisdom into our life will set us free, to be free indeed.**

# How does resisting temptation assist us?

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those who are  
)

So obey God. Stand up to the devil. He will run away from you.<sup>8</sup> Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Make your hearts pure, you who can't make up your minds.

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# What do we need to do if we are not sure if something is right?



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"God opposes those who oppose him."

## What does this mean

<sup>7</sup> So obey God. Stand up to the devil. He will run away from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Make your hearts pure, you who can't make up your minds.

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<sup>12</sup> The law is not for those who are perfect. It is for those who are sinners. It is for those who are



run away from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands—

## What does this mean

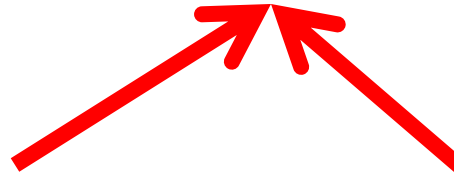
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<sup>12</sup> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge. He is the One who is able to save life or destroy it. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

# **GOD'S LAW**

**PERSONAL  
INTEREST**



**MORAL  
DUTY**

**“I was not born to be free---  
I was born to adore and obey.”**

**~ C.S. Lewis**

**But trying to follow laws can be difficult and  
heavy burdens,  
Unless we allow God to carry the load as well,  
right?**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

~ Jesus

Sets us free