

A person is seen from behind, with their arms raised high in a gesture of prayer or praise. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background is a dramatic sky with heavy, dark clouds, but a bright light source, likely the sun, is breaking through the clouds in the center, creating a strong backlighting effect and illuminating the scene with a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is one of spiritual awe and connection.

**Belonging to
Him**

**OUR NEED FOR
TRANSCENDENT RELATIONSHIP**

A person is seen from behind, with their arms raised high in a gesture of prayer or praise. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun partially obscured by clouds, creating a golden glow. The overall mood is one of spiritual freedom and connection.

**Belonging to
Him**

Freedom in Relationship



The Oath of Allegiance

I solemnly swear, or affirm, that I voluntarily and conscientiously renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or ally; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms in behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I will accept this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion or delay on my part.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

Life, Liberty

& the pursuit of

**Happiness**



Freedom in Relationship

Political/Social Freedom vs. Transcendent Freedom

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)

Freedom in Relationship

Political/Social Freedom vs. Transcendent Freedom

Kingdom
of God

Material
Needs

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)

Freedom in Relationship

Political/Social Freedom vs. Transcendent Freedom

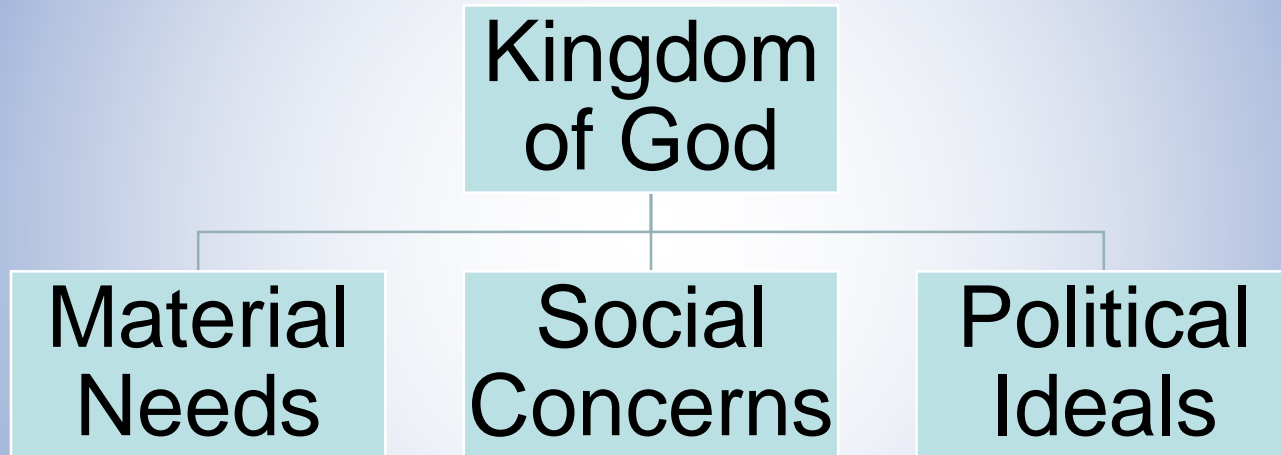
Kingdom
of God

Political
Ideals

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” (Matthew 22:21)

Freedom in Relationship

Political/Social Freedom vs. Transcendent Freedom





Freedom in Relationship

What Is Transcendent Freedom?

- Transcendent freedom is defined not just by our freedom to choose, but also by the quality of life that results from our choices.
- Transcendent freedom is found when our choices move beyond our right to our own independence, to a life guided by the bonds of Godly relationship.

Freedom in Relationship

3 Things That Distinguish Freedom in Godly Relationship



Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

1. Outweighs our right to self-government.

“The Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.’”

(Genesis 2:16)

Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

1. Outweighs our right to self-government.

“[The serpent] said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’

‘You will not surely die...For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”
(Genesis 3:1, 4-5)

Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

1. Outweighs our right to self-government.



Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

1. Outweighs our right to self-government.

There is no true freedom without governance!

So, the question then is:

**Under which governance
is my ultimate freedom to be found?**

In myself or in my Creator?

Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

1. Outweighs our right to self-government.

“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

2. Trades one Master for another.

When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. (Romans 6:20-22)

Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

2. Trades one Master for another.

“The Holy Spirit enables us to act in ways that are contrary to the natural impulses of our sinful nature. We are *released*...to be loving, patient, kind, faithful, and good.” – Susan Dunn

Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

3. Compels us to give up our lives for the freedom of others.

“For Christ’s love compels us...he died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)





Freedom in Relationship

Freedom in Godly Relationship...

3. Compels us to give up our lives for the freedom of others.

God doesn't just want us to be free FROM bondage, but also to be free FOR each other.

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”

(Galatians 5:13-14)

Freedom in Relationship



Freedom in Relationship



Freedom in Relationship



Freedom in Relationship



Freedom in Relationship



Freedom in Relationship



Freedom in Relationship





**Belonging to
Him**

**OUR NEED FOR
TRANSCENDENT RELATIONSHIP**