



Freedom - Embracing the Limits of Body and Soul

Key idea:

True freedom is found in recognizing humanity as including both body and soul, and embracing the inherent identity and limits of both.

Key text:

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 2:7

The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Key points:

1. Humans are created as a fusion of body and soul, and true freedom requires recognizing both exist and the unity of our personhood in both.
2. Human nature, consisting of body and soul, includes our being either male or female. Our identity as male and female is part of our soul, but our true sexual identity is always revealed in our bodies as male or female.
3. Some groups have destroyed human freedom by denying the place of the soul in our humanity. These include:
 - a. Materialists - who declare that matter is all that exists; there is no soul.
 - b. B.F. Skinner and the behaviorists - human behavior is the result of conditioning by society; we do not really possess the spiritual freedom to choose our own behavior.

- c. The original gay rights movement - people are either born heterosexual or homosexual; authenticity demands following this hard-wired sexuality.
- 4. Some groups have destroyed human freedom by denying the place of the body in our humanity. These include:
 - a. Gnosticism - the original heresy; denigrates the body and finds our real identity in the soul.
 - b. Transhumanism - humans are evolving beyond our current state as we use technology to alter our bodies, which are only a shell we hope one day to discard.
 - c. The transgender movement - I am what I determine; my identity on my body may be wrong and must submit to what I believe I am.
- 5. All of these groups divide the body and the soul in the pursuit of “freedom”, but denying our essential nature as body and soul only leads to bondage.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Genesis 1 and 2 both speak of the creation of humans. What is the same in each account? What different information is given in each account? What would be lost if I removed either Genesis 1 or Genesis 2?
3. Is my identity as male or female something that is found in my body, my soul, or both? Why do I say this? What difference does it make?
4. How does reducing the reality, dignity, and power of the soul (as in materialism, behaviorism, and the original gay rights movement) reduce my dignity and humanity? Do people really follow this philosophy consistently? Why not?
5. How does reducing the reality, dignity, and power of the body (as in Gnosticism, transhumanism, and the transgender movement) reduce my dignity and humanity? Do people really follow this philosophy consistently? Why not?
6. What is the common desire between those who deny or reduce the reality and significance of the soul and those who deny or reduce the reality and significance of the body? Which do I think is a greater danger in America today? Why?
7. Why do people become so emotional and angry at disagreements regarding the LGBTQ+ revolution and the transformation it is bringing to our culture? Why is disagreement with the ideas of the LGBTQ+ worldview seen as an attack on the person rather than disagreement over ideas? How should I respond to this?

8. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?

For Further Study:

[The Question of Sexuality](#) (April 22, 2018)

[The Covenant of Creation \(Part 2\)](#) (January 19, 2020)

[Man: The Image of God](#) (March 25, 2007)

Interviews with Carl Trueman about his book “The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self”

[With AI Mohler on “Thinking in Public”](#)

[With Colin Hansen of The Gospel Coalition](#)

Preview of next week: Freedom: Embracing the Limits of Work and Rest (Genesis 2:1-3; 2:15)