

## Healing the Culture: Freedom

- DISCUSSION: What is freedom?
- DISCUSSION: freedom *for* vs. freedom *from* → what is the difference?
  - Freedom *from* → Happiness 1, 2 (constraints, demands, duties, rules, commitments)
  - Freedom *for* → Happiness 3, 4 (empowerment, enablement, capable of)
  - Now, this is not an either/or situation: obviously, we probably need to be free *from* something in order that we may be free *for* something else
  - But think about this: once we exercise that freedom *for*, a freedom to choose some path, some course of action, we are now automatically constrained, correct?
    - Example: choosing to play basketball and having the freedom to do so means that you are surrendering yourself to certain constraints: practice schedules, game schedules, the rules of the game itself, etc.
    - Analogy: piccolo trumpet
      - The piccolo trumpet is *very* hard to play because its narrow bore size make it a very constraining instrument
      - But once I surrender myself to the specific constraints – the parameters, if you will – that define what it means to play piccolo trumpet, I am now free *for* playing the piccolo trumpet as it is meant and designed to be played – that is, according to its right and proper nature as piccolo trumpet
      - I am not free *for* abusing my piccolo trumpet by using it as a hammer; that would be an abuse of freedom
    - Analogy: golf
      - Each fairway on a golf course is defined by certain parameters, certain borders
      - The rules of golf are very specific
      - Once somebody surrenders him/herself to the rules of golf and to the given, specific parameters of each fairway, he/she is now free *for* excelling at golf according to the rules of the game (the right and proper nature of golf, if you will)
      - To hit the golf ball in any direction and as hard as you can regardless of distance is irresponsible, dangerous, and an abuse of freedom
- DISCUSSION: freedom and want/desire; freedom and choice
  - Obviously, if we want/desire something, we hope to have the freedom to choose it.
  - But what if something you want/desire conflicts with something *else* you want/desire? What if what you want/desire is a Happiness 1 or 2 and something *else* that you want/desire is a Happiness 3 or 4?
  - Example: sometimes I just really *really* want to eat *all* the steak and drink *all* the beer, which is a want/desire of Happiness 1, but if I really did each all the steak and drink all the beer, then I would be in no physical or mental condition to do my ministry, and my want/desire for my ministry is of Happiness 3/4.
  - Think about which level of happiness dominates your decision-making. How do you go about your decision-making?
- DISCUSSION (real-world implications of freedom and wants/desires, freedom and choice)
  - Freedom and abortion: yea or nay? Why?
  - Freedom and euthanasia: yea or nay? Why?
- PREVIEW OF NEXT DISCUSSION
  - Next discussion, we will get into rights and what they are, how “rights” is defined.
  - It should hopefully be obvious that there is a connection between freedom and rights: if I am *truly* free, ought I have the *right* to do what I want (or to *not* do what I do *not* want)? Why? → We will get into this next discussion, after Christmas and the New Year.