



TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Freedom from the Flesh

Bob Schwahn | Lead Pastor | October 2, 2022

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. **Ephesians 2:1-3 (NIV)***

Deceptive Ideas > Disordered Desires > Sinful Society
(Devil) (Flesh) (World)

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. **Galatians 5:13-17 (NIV)***

1) What is the TRUTH about our FLESH?

Big Truth: Our strongest desires are not actually our deepest desires. REPEAT.

2) What is the TRUTH about our FREEDOM?

WHAT DOES LOVE REQUIRE OF ME?



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Reflection Questions:

- 1) How would you define what Paul refers to as our "flesh" in the Bible?
- 2) What desires of your flesh do you tend to struggle with the most?
- 3) In what ways have you seen that the desires of your flesh are "disordered" (out of the right proportion or out of the right order)?
- 4) "Our strongest desires are not actually our deepest desires." Agree or disagree with that statement. Explain.
- 5) What would you say are your deepest desires? What do you really want in this life? What would you want people to say about you at your memorial?
- 6) What are some of your "strong" desires that keep you from pursuing your "deepest" desires?
- 7) How would you define what the Bible calls freedom? How is that different from how our world defines freedom?

Tim Keller:

Real freedom comes from a strategic loss of some freedoms to strategically gain other freedoms. It is not the absence of constraints but it is choosing the right constraints and the right freedoms to lose. Agree or disagree with this statement. Explain.

Why do real love relationships (with God or people) require a loss of freedom? Give examples from your own life and relationships.

How is living out of the desires of our flesh opposed to living a life of love with God and others?