

THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

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Introduction: The Uniqueness of Man.

- A. From the beginning, mankind was set apart as unique (**Gen. 1:26-27**).
- B. Many unique characteristics that we have set us apart from the rest of God's creation.

- 1. Self-awareness
- 2. Imagination
- 3. Conscience
- 4. Independent will (i.e., freedom to choose)

C. Despite our uniqueness, humans tend to blame the conditions around them for their behavior, as if he was an animal!

- 1. Many theories have been advanced to explain away our behavior.
 - a. "*Genetic Determinism*" – Inherited behavior through DNA
 - b. "*Psychic Determinism*" – Parental upbringing is the cause
 - c. "*Environmental Determinism*" – Environmental surroundings cause

I. The Lord Expects Us to Be Responsible for Our Actions.

A. Our behavior is to be a function of our decisions, not our environmental conditions (e.g., **Heb. 11:24-26**).

B. Let us be proactive rather than merely reactive to the world around us.

- 1. God commands us to be responsible for our decisions and our own lives: Responsibility (Response—Ability) = ***The ability to choose our response!***
- 2. God's word is filled with instructions of taking responsibility (**Rom. 12:19-21; Eph. 4:26-27; 1 Pet. 4:3-5; Rev. 2:9-10**).
- 3. Christ and His will, not circumstances, should be the driving force in our lives (**Phil. 4:10-13**).
- 4. Fundamentally, it is not what happens to us that hurt us, but our *response* to what happens to us (**1 Pet. 4:16**).
- 5. Jesus, our ultimate example, was the One to obey despite His circumstances (**1 Pet. 2:21-23**).

II. God Has Given Us the Power to Choose.

A. We are to *choose to act* rather than be acted upon.

1. Some people act like helpless victims that have fallen prey to the world.
2. God commands us to *take the initiative* for our spiritual lives (**Rom. 12:1-2**).
3. Being a disciple of Christ is a choice (**Luke 9:23; cf. Col. 1:9-10; 1 Tim. 4:7**).

B. Let us choose to serve God and not the devil.

1. God has given us the ability to choose; He did not create programmed robots that would automatically serve Him.
2. Instead, He has left the decision up to us. **We must choose who we will serve (Josh 24:14-15).**

III. God Will Hold Us Accountable for All Our Choices (Rom. 14:12).

A. When Judgment Day comes, we will *not* be judged according to the different circumstances of our lives.

1. God is not a God of partiality; He will judge each according to His work (**1 Pet. 1:17-19**).
2. God will judge without partiality by the standard of His word (**John 12:48**).

Conclusion: On Judgment Day, We Will Be Judged According to Our Deeds and the Choices We Made (2 Cor. 5:10).