



BE WE FREE?



CANNON

"THEY MOCK THE INDEPENDENCE AND THE INTELLECT OF THE ENTIRE NATION."

Be We Free?



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“They that can give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania, 1759

Contents

Human Desire For Freedom 7

Can freedom be had?  7

Does state liberate or bind?  16

The physical law  32

Moral law  48


The human dream  61


Image of God 66


Why free agency?  66


Euthyphro  79

Why the Law? 92

World of the fallen  92

Law for the fallen  98


Fulfilling the law  117


Restoration of reason  129

The freedom dream  142


Free Agency  **146**


Framing the cosmos  146


Agents of change  157

Agents of tyranny  171

The Issues  **189**

A proper place  189

Only one issue  203

Have we gained anything?  215

Preface

Around classes and being a pastor I have little time to write for pleasure. I wish that, along with other things, I could release a great novel regularly. I have grown more aware of the need we all have to sacrifice some of the things that we want to do so that we can use our passions to do what God has called us to do. I am still so grateful that I have time to write a little and that there are people who are interested in reading.

Be We Free? has been a long time coming and I am excited to finally present it to you! I would like to thank all of my readers for supporting this passion of mine. I consider you to be much more than just readers, but dear friends. I hope that you enjoy this story, that it draws you in, and even forces you to consider some things that maybe you haven't. Thanks again for reading!

With special thanks to our armed forces and law enforcement officers: those who make it possible for us to have the degree of freedom that we have in this great country.

Human Desire for Freedom: Can Freedom Be Had?

Man is begat in bondage and there is nothing he can do to escape it. His desire for freedom outweighs his desire for life, yet he is trapped in life. He is a slave to governments and to perception and to morality and to circumstance and to society. It seems that even those in the most free nation are discontented with the liberties afforded them and that those people, though they desire great and unhindered freedom, know not where to find it or if it can even be achieved.

“There are a great many things for which we should be thankful, I suppose, but I will also admit that I am not content in this society. Before I share this with you, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Zachary Bellicosus and I am a champion of human freedom and liberty. I support the Human Dignity and Liberty Society because it is an organization that promotes the freedom of thought within the political ranks of this country. For now, we still mostly have the freedom to speak and to fight for other freedoms, such as same-sex marriage and the legalization of certain recreational drugs. The HDLS is at the forefront of this fight, advancing the idea that government need not impede our rights and privileges as

Be We Free?

people! I hope that, today, you will donate to the HDLS so that our freedoms, yours and mine, always remain intact.”

Many present in the dinner hall stood and applauded, making it known that they each planned to donate in order to fund the political battle for freedom that the HDLS claimed to wage on behalf of the people.

“Please also join us for a Liberty Q and A in the auditorium following the meal.”

The man on the stage stepped down as those in the room continued to clap and as some made their way to greet him.



“Sir, the judge has the floor.” The court bailiff warned the defense as the attorney spoke to the defendant, but the defense attorney continued to whisper loudly to his client. The judge stood up exasperated, and called out, “Mr. Bellicosus, we would like to get these proceedings underway. Would you mind honoring us with your mental presence?”

Human Desire for Freedom

Zack and his attorney gave the judge their attention. Just as the judge was about to speak again, loud popping noises were heard not far from the courtroom. The blistering hollow noise got louder, and Zack stood up and quickly rushing the only court security officer in the room. He maneuvered around the officer, taking his sidearm and holding it to his head. The whole courtroom was in shock and before anyone had time to act, two other men entered with automatic rifles. One of them shot the bailiff, and the other warned the people in the courtroom not to move.



There were four men sitting at the front of the auditorium, including Zack, and an ambassador from another country. The third man was a senator and the fourth was a prominent investigative journalist. Two men stood in the isles holding microphones in order to facilitate questions and the mediator sat at the front with the group of experts. “Who would like to ask the first question about human liberty?” he asked and waited for the first person to stand.

Be We Free?

There was one lady who stood up in the back, held out her hand and waited for one of the microphones. When the microphone was in her hand, she asked her question, “We are obsessed with equality, right? Equality seems like nothing more than a fight by some for a greater freedom, but I’m not sure that I’ve ever met anyone who actually knows what freedom is. So, that’s my question. What is freedom?”

The mediator repeated the question, and called on the senator to answer the question. The senator began:

“I think that freedom is something we talk about in many regards. Philosophers debate whether or not freedom actually exists and, upon the assumption that freedom does exist, others try and define that freedom. Since I am a politician, I will answer politically. Freedom can be measured by two means. One is that I am free to speak because I have the ability to speak. I am not free to breathe under water because I am simply unable. This is positive freedom or positive liberty. Another is that I am not restricted from speaking as I wish to speak by those in power. This is negative freedom or negative liberty. There is yet another definition of freedom that applies to more than simply the individual, and that is republican freedom. Republican freedom is one nation existing in autonomy without being subject to the ruling authority of another nation.ⁱ

Human Desire for Freedom

As we speak about our current context, I think most of the battle is that people desire a greater degree of individual autonomy. Because of this, they have called on the government to grant a greater degree of negative freedom.”

The mediator took the microphone back as the ambassador signaled that he had something to add. He was given the microphone and he asked one question of the senator, “Suppose I want absolute negative freedom, Mr. Senator, how might I obtain it?”

The ambassador handed the microphone over to the senator, who replied,

“Absolute freedom, in this sense, is a myth. It is a myth because laws must exist. Where there is no law, there remain people who will exert prohibitive power over other people. If we were to abolish law, such forceful power would still inhibit absolute negative freedom. An absolute degree of negative freedom cannot exist in the world the way that it is.

The problem we see as we debate at the nation’s capital is in consideration of the proper degree to which negative freedom should be had or how we might give the greatest degree of negative freedom to the people. Over the years, opinions have changed regarding that degree.” He

Be We Free?

stopped there, awkwardly, and held out the mic for the mediator to take.

The crowd now looked a little insecure. The mediator took the microphone and asked for the next question.



The officer took the gun from Zack, shot one of the intruders and got shot by the other. When bullets stopped flying, there were three lifeless bodies on the floor of the courtroom. Zack picked up the officer's handgun and placed it in his belt before picking up the rifle of the dead intruder. He then motioned for the judge to join the audience, "Anyone who gets out of their seat will die."

Zack stepped up into the judge's seat and sat down. "You," Zack pointed into the audience, "you're the ambassador from the panel this morning."

A middle-aged man with dark skin nodded. He carried himself well and appeared to have been through many hard

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