

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## *Responsibilities of Freedom*

*In just a few words, what does the 4<sup>th</sup> of July mean to you?*

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*Every 4<sup>th</sup> of July Tacoma hosts the annual **Freedom Fair** along Shuster Parkway & the Ruston Waterfront.*

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*Americans often link our national freedom with July 4<sup>th</sup>*

- *Celebrating freedom from being ruled by the King of England*

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*It's a true statement that freedom isn't free*

- **What is freedom & what does it cost?**
- *Many have paid for our freedom with their lives*
- **No one more than Jesus**

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*Edmund Burke said, "When men do not govern themselves, they require that others govern over them."*

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*Do we choose to govern ourselves? If so, **how**?*

- *To what extent do others govern over us?*
- *In the U.S. we're supposed to choose who governs over us*
- *If we don't, someone else will*

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*How has God ordained **the government of freedom**?*

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*He offers **three realms of government** to provide safety and freedom...*

- *For those who will live in His revealed ways:*
- **Personal, corporate and civil** government.

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*They are designed to be **interdependent**, in that order of priority*

- **How** do you choose to govern yourself? **By what standards?**
- However we do it, **is what we bring** to the other realms
- Hypocrites live differently than what they expect of others
- We should be **living** what we believe should be.

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*How each of us choose to govern our personal life...*

- *Are the building blocks of corporate & civil government*

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*How has God called us to govern our own lives?*

- *He has given us three commandments to govern our lives by*

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***First & foremost**, Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment." **Matthew 22:37-38***

- **Deut. 6:5 & Mark 12:30** include "strength"
- *All of our passion, spirit, thoughts & ability*

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*So, the cornerstone standard of governing our own life is –*

- *Love God with all **we are**, all **we have** & all **we're capable of***
- *Our main purpose in life is expressing our love for God with our whole being*

*Will we always demonstrate that perfectly?*

- *No. But if we don't embrace it, we won't even get close*
- *If we aim at nothing, we're sure to hit it*
- *The more consistent our aim, the closer we'll get*

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**Matthew 22:39**, "And **the second is like it**: 'You shall love **your neighbor** as yourself.'"

- *Treat them with a preference you would choose for yourself (**neighbor=everyone**)*
- **Matthew 7:12**, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (*Treat everyone like you'd like to be treated*)

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**Matthew 22:40**, "On these two commandments hang **all the Law and the Prophets**."

- He had said it before, without the impact of a life-defining commandment

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*The Jews of Christ's time had come up with 613 laws to be in good standing with God... which couldn't be done.*

- *That was the point. They could claim you never measured up*
- *Jesus reduced it to two. (Much easier to keep track of)*

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**The third** life governing standard is **among** Christ's followers

- **John 13:34**, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another."
- *This is the highest standard of Agape love*
- *Singularly for the other's benefit, with no self-interest*

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God's third standard of self-government **carries a promise**

- **John 13:35**, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
- *It also opens the door to **the second realm** of God's government of **corporate freedom***
- *For next week*