Five Lies That Destroy Lives Episode 3

“The False Hope of Freedom”

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John 8:32 "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

Proverbs 14:12, "There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death."

**1.) The LIE: "I will find FREEDOM when I am not limited by LAWS."**

The Prodigal Son in Luke 15.

2 Peter 2:1-3 "But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. Many will follow their evil teaching... But God condemned them long ago, and their destruction will not be delayed."

*apōleia =* utter destruction; the destruction of hell fire.

2 Peter 2:19 "They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity - for 'people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.'”

* **POSITION**. *"I am above the law."*

This lie says "as a child of God I am above judgment."

2 Peter 2:4 "For God did not spare even the angels who sinned."

Jude 1:4-6 "I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have **denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ**. So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesusfirst rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful. And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment."

* **POPULAR OPINION**. *"Everyone is doing it."*

2 Peter 2:5 "And God did not spare the ancient world..."

This lies says "everyone else is doing it, so it must be OK."

Exodus 23:2 "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil."

* **PROSPERITY**. *"This is God's favor!"* 2 Peter 2:6 "God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and...made them an example..."

This lie says, "My blessing is a sign that I am OK with God."

Psalm 73:3, 17 "For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked."

*Beware! Lawlessness leads to death!* Proverbs 5:11-14 "In the end you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body. You will say, 'How I hated discipline! If only I had not ignored all the warnings! Oh, why didn’t I listen to my teachers? Why didn’t I pay attention to my instructors?I have come to the brink of utter ruin, and now I must face public disgrace.'”

**2.) The TRUTH: Freedom comes from living under GOD'S AUTHORITY.**

Psalm 119:45 **"I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments."**

James 1:25 "But if you look carefully into the **perfect law that sets you free**, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it."

**3.) The SOLUTION: I will SUBMIT to God's LAWS AND LEADERS!**

James 4:7 "Therefore, submit to God."

Respond to God’s Word

1. **Reject rebellion**.
2. **Determine that we are going to follow the path of submission**.

Psalm 119:1-8 "Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths. You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully. Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees! Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands. As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! I will obey your decrees."

Study Questions

* If you were to ask your friends and co-workers, “Who is in charge of your life?”, what do you think their response would be? Why? Can anyone really control their own life?
* Ultimately, what really determines the ownership of a person’s life? Read 2 Peter 2:19. What are some signs that you have become a slave to a certain action or habit? What are some actions or habits that many people today are in bondage to?
* On Sunday, we learned that there are three reasons that men think the law does not apply to them – position, popular opinion, and prosperity. Which one of these reasons do you think is most prevalent in our culture? Do you ever find yourself using one of these reasons to justify something you did?
* If everyone followed traffic laws, obeyed the government and paid their taxes, what kind of trouble and stress would this free us from? Instead, when people break the laws and follow their own desires, how are we limited in our daily lives and activities?
* What actions show that a person hates receiving discipline and correction? Read Proverbs 5:11-14. Why should you receive godly discipline and correction with grace and thankfulness?
* Two weeks ago, the sermon was about pride. Pride is defined as contending with God for supremacy. How is pride related to obedience and submission? Where does true obedience begin? Read Psalm 131:1. How can we come to a place of quietness and trust, where we are ready to obey?
* Read James 1:21. List three ways you can prepare your heart to receive God’s Word. How can you keep your heart open every day to the leading of the Word? How can you keep from being a forgetful hearer? What does it mean to receive the Word “with meekness”?
* Would you say that being governed by God’s Spirit is unusual or is common? Can everyone be led by God’s Spirit? Share how God has used His Spirit to enforce His authority in your life.
* Read Psalm 37:1-11. Where does the path of the wicked lead? Where does the path of the righteous lead? What does God promise to the righteous that the wicked can never have?
* Who are the leaders that God has appointed over your life? What are some ways that you can publicly show your submission to the laws and leaders in your life?
* Have you ever had a leader that was sinful? Is it wrong to ignore the authority of such a leader?
* Do you ever experience anger and frustration at the rules, at others, or at circumstances? Are these things a sign of resisting God’s authority instead of submitting to Him?