

# Virtuous Freedom 2: Freedom for **SUBSTANCE**

# Discernment - You have to be able to see



## Matthew 6:19-24

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon..."

# **Sanctification** - You can't become like 2 opposite masters

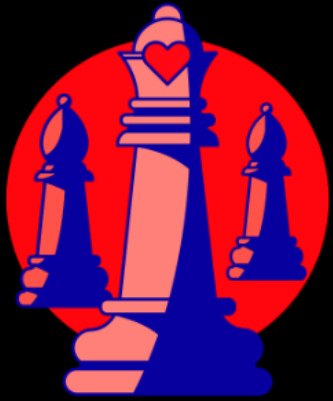
"No one can serve  
two masters.



You cannot serve both  
God and Mammon..."

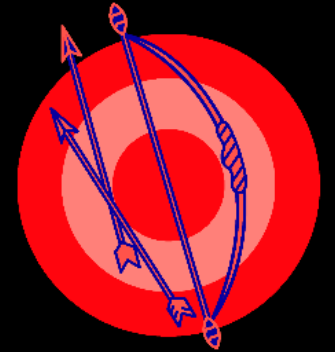
Serving life and death at the  
same time makes zombies.

# *4 Marks of Substance*



**Self-Sacrificial Love**

**The Mind of Christ**



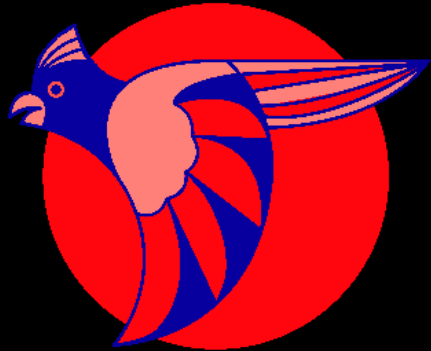
**Virtuous Freedom**

**In Step with the Spirit**

# Mark 3: *Virtuous Freedom*



How Christ makes us free of  
our foundational slavery

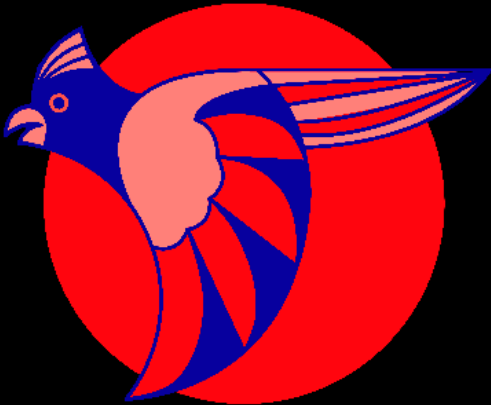


How Christ maximizes the  
good through freedom

# *Virtuous Freedom*



What are we saved FROM?



What are we saved FOR?

Freedom is the ability to do the good.

Requires:

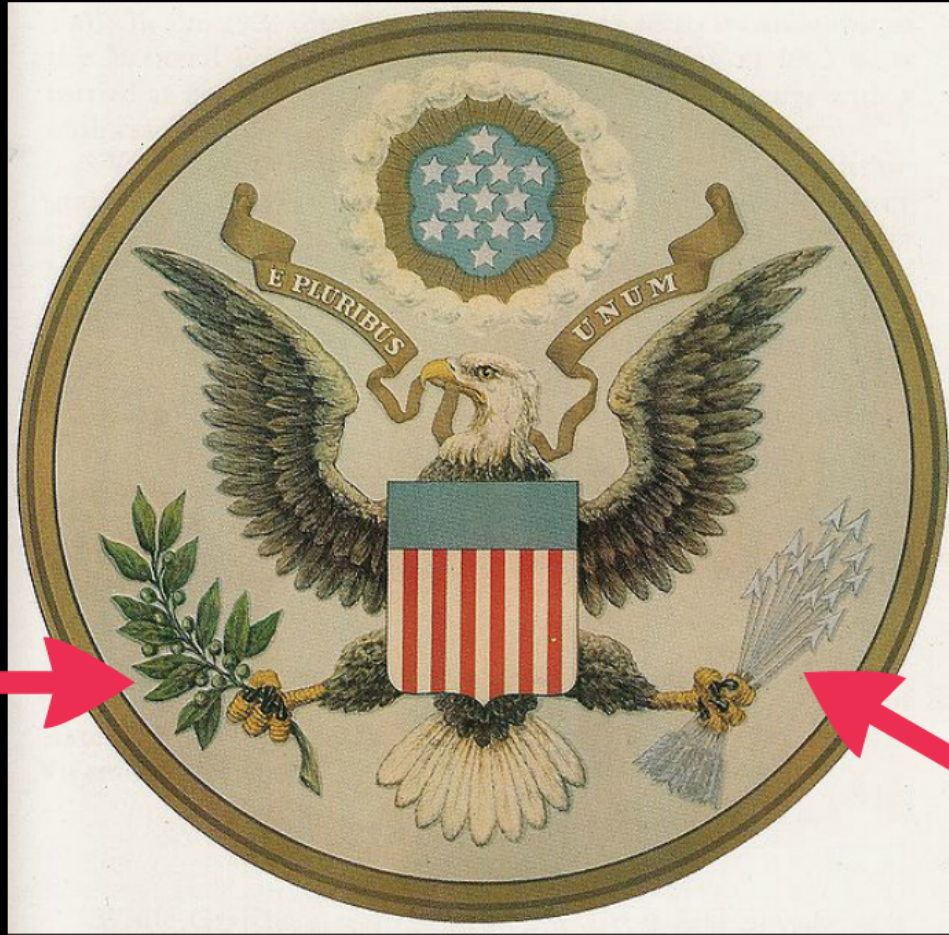
- 1. Liberty**—No external tyranny
- 2. Virtue**—Presence of internal strength

**"Land of the free"**

(not original to America)

"The presence of  
Shalom"- Peaceful  
justice

without  
tyranny—  
**ie. Liberty**



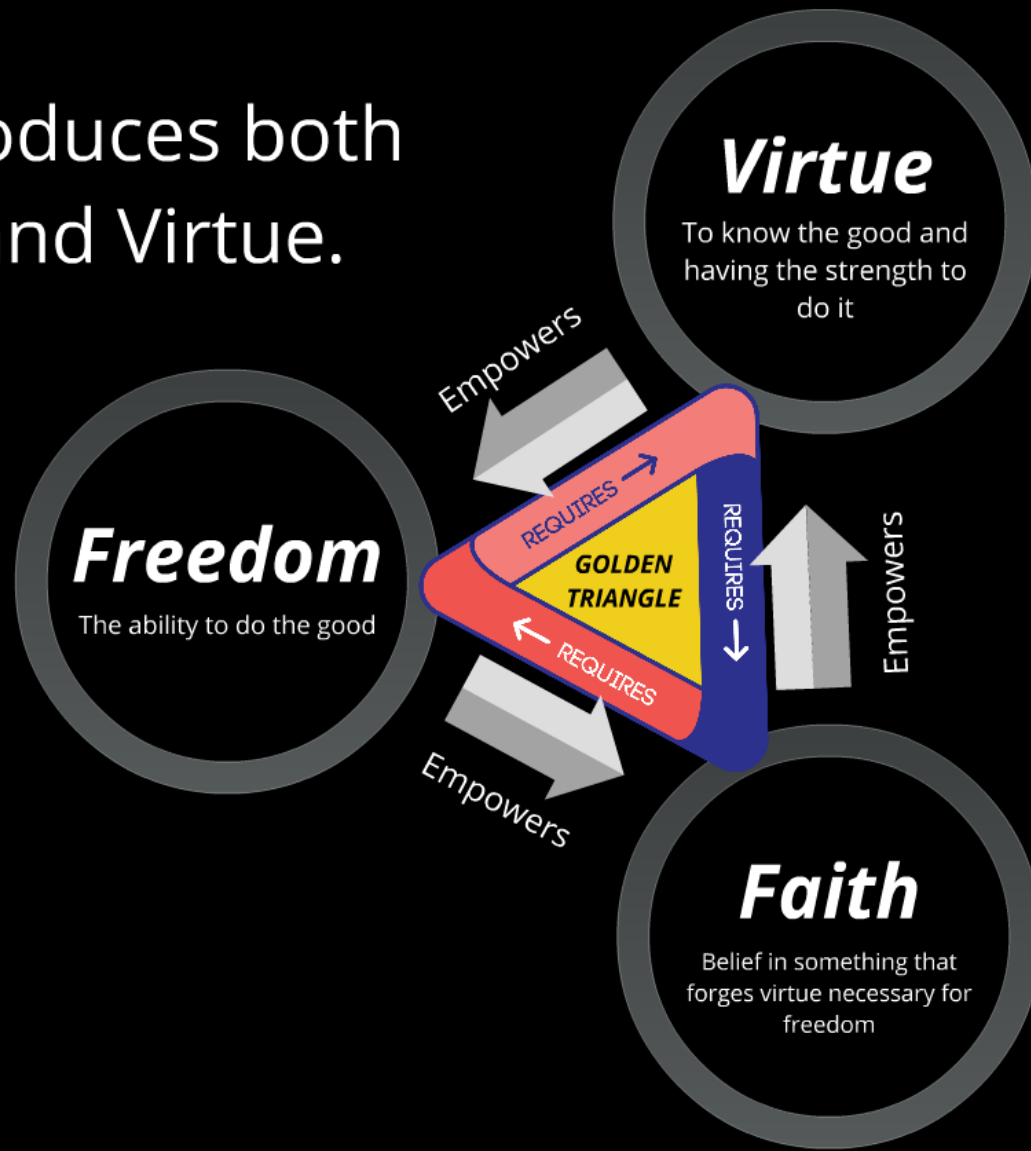
**"Home of the  
Brave"**

virtue of  
fortitude

**ie. Virtue**



Faith Produces both  
Liberty and Virtue.



But How?

# How? Virtuous faith emancipates.

What is our Foundational Slavery?

What are we saved FROM?

**2 Peter 2:19** (see also 2 Pet 2:12)

They promise them freedom, while they themselves are **slaves of depravity**—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

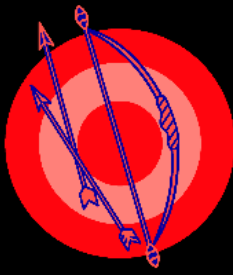


## Ephesians 2:1-5

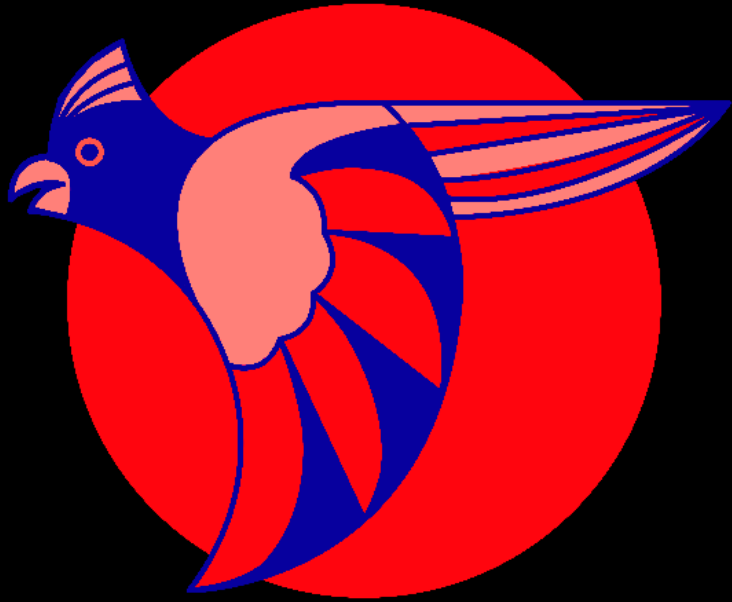
# Gracious Emancipation

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 objects of wrath.** But because of his great love for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy, **made us alive with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is **by grace** you have been saved."

## Ephesians 4:22-24



You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is *being corrupted* by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

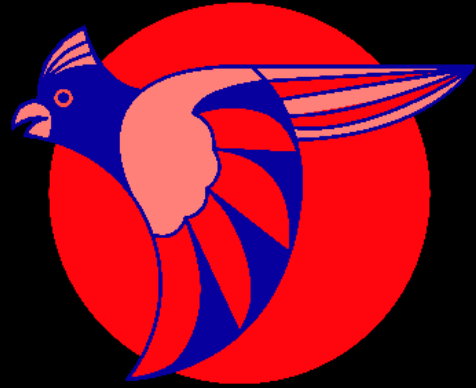


If Slavery to the Flesh  
and depravity is our  
foundational slavery,  
what is our ultimate  
emancipation?

What are we saved **FOR** ?



Our ultimate freedom:



# Freedom from the Law

Why is that the  
ultimate freedom?

(Why wouldn't we  
be saved FOR the  
Law?!?!?!?)

# Galatians 5:1-6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that **if you let yourselves be circumcised,** Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who **lets himself be circumcised** that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are **trying to be justified** by law have been alienated from Christ; **you have fallen away from grace.**<sup>1</sup> But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.** <sup>2</sup>



## Romans 8:1-4

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus ***the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*** For what The Law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the Flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the Flesh in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the Flesh but according to the Spirit.

# Freedom from the Law gives 2 freedoms:

**1. Justification**—(from legalism) freedom from moralism, hypocrisy, fear of death, and boasting (Eph 2:9, Rom 3:27 , 4:2)

**2. Sanctification**—(from license) Freedom from the limitations the Law put on doing the good.  
Unleashing virtuous freedom

Freedom from the Law gives 2 freedoms:

**Justification** → Humility  
Thankfulness → **Love**

Conviction → Conscience

**Sanctification** → Faithful  
Virtuous → **Stewardship**

Love and Stewardship *for what?*

EVERYTHING

# Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

## Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is ***being corrupted*** by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, **created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

# Object of Allegiance

# Result of Allegiance

**Creator (God)**



**Conviction**

Rule of the Flesh and Restraint of the Law

**Human**



**Coercion**

**Creation**



**Compulsion**

# Imaging the God of Righteousness and Holiness

Creator (God)



Conviction

Human

~~Coercion~~



Love

Right authority and  
submission

Creation

~~Compulsion~~



Stewardship

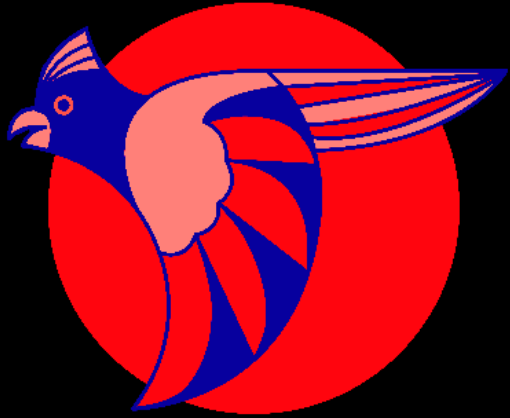
Right care and enjoyment





"...but their hands were tied."





Virtuous Freedom,  
grown in faith by the  
Spirit, is guided not by  
the constrictions of the Law, but by  
the **convictions of a redeemed  
conscience.**

*Substance, page 131*

Allegiance:

**Creator (God)**



**Conviction**

**Conscience and Character (virtue)**

**Human**



**Virtuous Love**

Free to do the good to others

**Creation**

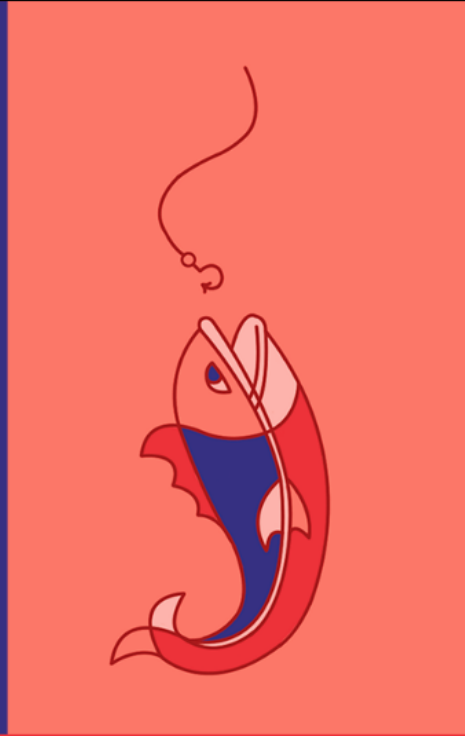
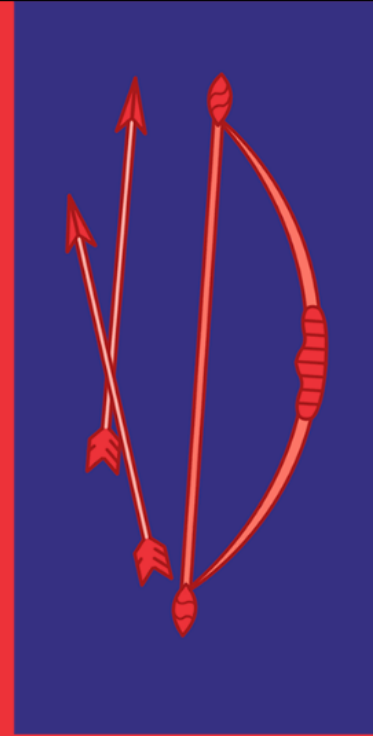
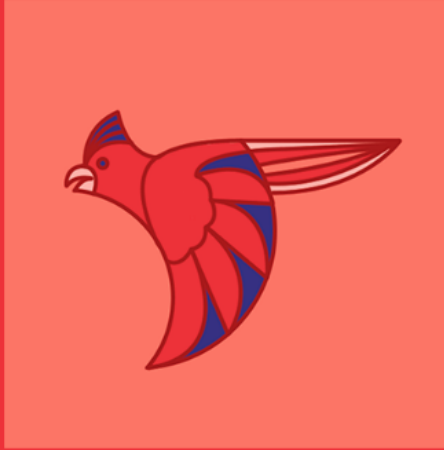
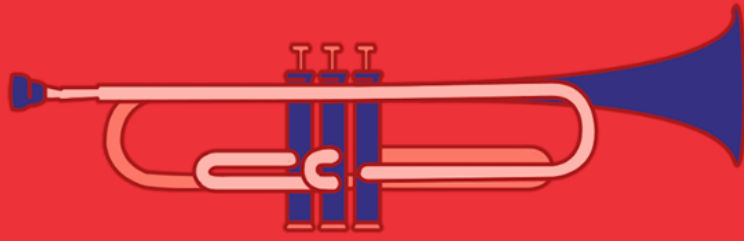


**Stewardship** (Gen 1:26-28)

Freedom to work flourishing

# Hebrews 3:1-2

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on **Jesus**, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. He **was faithful to the one who appointed him**, just as Moses was **faithful in all God's house.**



# Virtuous Freedom 2: Freedom for **SUBSTANCE**