



Lesson 103

Leaving Freedom Behind

- **Review of the Last Lesson**
 - Democrats, Republicans, and Libertarians
- **Freedom vs. Equality**
 - Freedom and equality
 - Example: the slave states
 - Example: the Civil Rights Act
 - Example: Masterpiece Cakeshop
 - Example: COVID-19 mandates
- **Freedom vs. Equality and Politics**
 - What do the political parties believe?
 - Big government vs. small government
- **Freedom vs. Equality and the Bible**
 - God and Satan
 - Adam and Eve
 - The end equals the beginning

In this lesson, we are going to be looking at different examples of when freedom and equality are the two overarching issues. We're also going to be looking at what the Democrat, Republican, and Libertarian Parties represent regarding either freedom or equality and how that affects some of the policies that they uphold. Lastly, we are going to look at how freedom and equality were the two main issues way back before the Earth was even created.

Review of the Last Lesson

Democrats, Republicans, and Libertarians

Last week we looked at the political parties in the United States and their subgroups. The three biggest parties are the Democrats and the Republicans - as we already know - and the Libertarians. The Democrat Party was formed first by Martin Van Buren, after the 1824 elections, out of an old party called the Democratic-Republicans. They supported individual rights, but only for white Americans, because they also supported slavery. The Democrat Party was the party of the South. On the other hand, the Republican Party was the party of the North. It was formed in 1854 to oppose the expansion of slavery. Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president. He, and the Republicans in Congress eventually freed the slaves and started to give them rights. We then saw how when the southern states disenfranchised African American voters the southern Republican Party leaders started making their party more white American. And these actions started the events that led to the Democrat and Republican Parties changing sides. This change culminated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was passed by a southern Democrat president: Lyndon Johnson. Now the Democrat Party is the party of minorities and the Republican Party is the party of businesses and white Americans. Meanwhile another party was coming up that is similar to the Republican Party since they are both on the Right Wing. This party is the Libertarian Party and it was formed in 1971. They support individual rights without interference from the government. A lot of Republicans favor libertarianism. The next thing we did in the previous lesson was look at ways to categorize the right wing. In the right wing there are three groups which we can demonstrate through the example of the gender wage gap: there are people who believe that the wage gap is bad but not the top priority and the government should let people fix it on their own, others believe that there is no wage gap to begin with, and the third group see the wage gap as a good thing. There are also three characteristics, the trinity, that are often combined on the right wing, they are: atheism, men's rights, and libertarianism (not necessarily the party, just the ideology). These three ideas are often found in men on the right wing. Finally, we saw that the messages of two streams, the Moral Majority, the battle of Iphigeneia, and the line of the Nephilims' helped us to see that the right wing is the wrong political side and we needed to switch to the left wing - which we did, as a Movement.

Freedom vs. Equality

Freedom and equality

There are two words that we need to understand in this Movement, one is freedom, and the other is equality. Since 2019 we have been familiar with equality, but now we need to start being familiar with freedom. First, according to Oxford languages, equality means, “the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.” In this Movement we usually talk about gender equality, meaning all genders have equal status, rights, and opportunities. Now we need to start understanding freedom. According to Oxford languages, freedom means, “the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.” Now we might already be familiar with freedom- everyone wants to have freedom, such as free speech, freedom of religion, and so on. But we need to understand freedom prophetically. Prophetically, freedom and equality have been the two sides fighting each other throughout the entire great controversy. While many have not recognized it before, whenever someone is opposing equality it is because they are promoting freedom. As a Movement, we stand on the side of equality; but that doesn’t mean freedom is bad, it’s a good thing, but when freedom and equality collide, equality must always win. Next, we are going to look at some examples of freedom and equality to better understand the two sides.

Example: the slave states

The issue of slavery really boiled down to an argument of freedom and equality. Which was the priority— freedom or equality? Was the Southern slave owners’ freedom to own slaves more important than the slaves’ right to be treated equally? The Northern states argued the latter. African-Americans should not have been enslaved because their right to equality was more important. But the South and Southern slave owners had a different argument. They argued that freedom was more important. Their right to own slaves trumped the slaves’ rights. More specifically, they believed that their freedom to enslave people was more important than the slaves’ right not to be enslaved. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln passed the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves within the South. And on December 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment was ratified, abolishing slavery in the United States. Despite the argument of the Southern states, the United States as a whole fell onto the side of equality. The slaves’ right to equality were more important than the South’s freedom to enslave them.

Example: the Civil Rights Act

Another example of the freedom vs. equality issue can be seen in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This bill outlawed segregation and discrimination (because of race, gender, religion, and national origin) in businesses like restaurants and hotels, public areas like libraries and public schools, and programs connected to the federal government. It also banned this same kind of discrimination in employment, and strengthened the enforcement of voting rights. An organization called the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was even created to enforce this law in anything that had to do with employment. This is an example of freedom and equality colliding because the Civil Rights Act prohibits people from doing what they want - it takes away their freedom. It says that business owners can’t discriminate, when without this law they would

have had the freedom to do so. The Civil Right Act says that African Americans (the main point at the time) had a right to be equal with white Americans, they deserved equality, even if a white American's freedom was overturned to give them this equality. In this example the United States did the right thing in putting equality before freedom.

Example: Masterpiece Cakeshop

Another good example of freedom vs. equality is a Supreme Court case that began in 2017. Back in July of 2012, Charlie Craig and David Mullins, a gay couple were getting married. They went to Masterpiece Cakeshop in Colorado, and asked Jack C. Phillips, the owner, to design and bake a cake for their wedding. However, Phillips was a conservative Evangelical, and refused to make them a cake, we know he did this because he was homophobic. Craig and Mullins filed discrimination charges with the help of the Colorado Civil Rights Division, saying Phillips violated the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA). They also filed a complaint with the Office of Administrative Courts in Colorado. The Administrative Courts in Colorado found probable cause of discrimination, and the Colorado Civil Rights Division affirmed it. The Colorado Civil Rights Commission issued a cease-and-desist order penalizing Masterpiece Cakeshop, requiring it to “file quarterly compliance reports for two years with the Division describing the remedial measures taken to comply with CADA,” among other requirements. Phillips appealed to the Colorado Court of Appeals, saying that he didn’t refuse to bake them a cake because they were gay, but because of their conduct- getting married. He also claimed his 1st Amendment right to free religion had been violated. The Court of Appeals heard Phillips’ request, but they still sided with Craig and Mullins. Masterpiece Cakeshop then appealed to the US Supreme Court, and it agreed to hear the case on June 26, 2017. But before we find out what the court ruled, we need to understand the two sides. On one side is Craig and Mullins, members of the LGBTQ+ community, backed by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. They were clearly the side promoting equality. On the other side, we have Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop. He was on the side of freedom. We know he was on the side of freedom, because freedom means the power to act without restraint- Phillips wanted the ability to run his shop how he wanted to without restraint; he wanted freedom over equality (specifically LGBTQ+ equality), but Craig and Mullins wanted equality over freedom. On June 4, 2018, The Supreme Court ruled on the case Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission. In a 7-2 ruling, the court sided with Phillips, which reversed the Court of Appeals’ decision. The court ruled that Philip’s right to free speech and free religion had been violated by the Civil Rights Commission. This Movement understands that this was a bad court ruling. It sided with freedom over equality, which we know is incorrect. Although freedom is important, when it conflicts with equality, equality must prevail, but unfortunately the conservative dominated Supreme Court doesn’t share our correct world view.

Example: COVID-19 mandates

The issue of COVID-19 mask mandates and vaccine mandates is really an issue of freedom or equality. The purpose of mask and vaccine mandates aren't just to keep you healthy. In the case of the vaccine, it will keep you from dying if you catch COVID-19. They are also to keep the people around you healthy. In the case of the masks, if you are asymptomatic, it will stop you from unknowingly spreading the virus to anyone else. Both the mask and vaccine mandates are about equality— thinking not just about yourself but about other people, especially the more vulnerable like the elderly and people with pre-existing conditions. But some people (the far-right), argue that the mandates are going against their freedom. “But the U.S. right is, in effect, trying to keep the pandemic going. ... Fox News serves up anti-vaccine messages almost every day. Republican governors have tried to ban vaccine mandates not just by local governments and school districts but by private businesses. Multiple Republican attorneys general have filed suit to stop federal vaccine mandates. The expressed rationale for all this activity is that it's about protecting freedom” (No, Vaccine Mandates Aren't an Attack on Freedom). This New York Times article also explains that the Right's rejection of mandates also had to do with politics. The Right argues that they should have the final say in whether or not they get the vaccine. Before, it was whether or not they should have to wear a mask. All they are concerned about is themselves and their freedom. The Democrats, on the other hand, support vaccine and mask mandates because they are for the benefit of everyone, not just the mask-wearer or the vaccinated. COVID-19 mandates are for the good of everyone — equality, which is more important than anyone's freedom of choice.

Freedom vs. Equality in Politics

What do the political parties believe?

The main three political parties in the United States all have a position on the freedom vs. equality issue. Democrats put equality over freedom when they collide. Republicans support freedom over equality. And Libertarians support full freedom with essentially no equality. We can see these from the previous examples we just gave and we know that Democrats (or liberals on the Supreme Court) supported equality while Republicans (or conservatives) support freedom. In all of the above examples where there was a law outlawing some freedoms to promote equality, Libertarians would disagree - like the Civil Rights Act of 1964, they don't agree with the part that says businesses can't discriminate. Another example is the issue of free speech, specifically on social media. Republicans believe you can say what you want; this is how Trump got banned from Twitter. The Democrats agreed with Twitter that your freedom shouldn't allow you to spread disinformation or hurt other people. Everyone, they say, deserves to be treated the same (nicely), in other words: with equality. Libertarians believe in free speech no matter how much you harass others (so they did not agree with Twitter). Gay marriage is yet another example of what the different political parties think of freedom and equality. Democrats believe that heterosexual and homosexual people should have equal rights and opportunities to get married. Libertarians believe that homosexual people can get married too - because they believe everyone can do what they want. But they do not believe people should be forced to do things for LGBTQ+ people because, again, they believe everyone can do what they want. Republicans don't support gay marriage, and they, like Libertarians, don't believe people should be forced to do things since they have freedom. The example of gay marriage also brings up something else you can find in the right wing: morality. The Evangelicals of the Republican Party combine their version of morality (in this example: being homosexual is a sin) with freedom (the rights of the baker) to not support gay marriage. Traditional values (like gender roles) are also found more broadly in the right wing - they don't have to be connected to Christianity. But these values help shape the right wing's ideas of freedom. So as we can see, all three main political parties in the United States have their own version of equality vs. freedom: Democrats believe in equality over freedom, Republicans believe in freedom (to do some things) over equality, and Libertarians believe in total freedom where equality can't be forced and therefore doesn't have to exist.

Big government vs. small government

When one side favors freedom and the other side favors equality, there is a clear difference in their views on the government. Back in the 1800s, Democrats were on the side of freedom. They wanted individual states to be free to practice slavery if they wanted. On the other side was Republicans who supported equality. They used the powers of the federal government to eventually end slavery. But before slavery ended, the North and the South of the United States fought a civil war. Now as much as slavery was part of the Civil War, it was not the core issue- the core issue of the Civil War was states' rights. The South wanted individual states to have the right to allow slavery, while the North wanted the federal government to have control over slavery. So slavery was a key issue, but the main issue was states' rights vs. federal rights. In other words, the South wanted the federal government to have less power and the North wanted it to have more power. This is an underlying ideology of freedom and equality. When one side supports freedom, they don't need a big

federal government to regulate everything they do, because freedom is the right to do what you want without regulation; hence supporters of freedom also support a small federal government, with more states' rights. On the other hand, if you support equality, you need a big federal government to keep tabs on everyone and make sure they aren't discriminating. Therefore, freedom goes with small government, and equality goes with big government. Back in the 1800s, Democrats were on the side of freedom, and they supported states' rights- a small federal government. Republicans supported a large government. Today, Democratic and Republican ideology has switched, as we saw in Lesson 102. That means Democrats of today should support a large federal government and Republicans should support a smaller one, in combination with states' rights. Do we see this in politics? Yes. Republicans control most of the US' state governments, and they are using the powers of states' rights to pass discrimination laws, particularly laws that make it harder for minorities to vote. Democrats currently control the federal government and they are doing what they can to support equality. Even when we look at taxes we see this trend. Democrats want to use the powers of the federal government to tax the rich. But Republicans are opposed to big government, they oppose taxes on the rich because they want the rich to have freedom to evade taxes without regulation (Pandora Papers). And when we look at Libertarians, they also oppose taxes and big government, because they are more on the side of freedom than Republicans. So this is how politics work today- we have the side of freedom that opposes big government and we have the side of equality that supports big government.

Freedom vs. Equality in the Bible

God and Satan

Freedom versus equality was the issue that started way back in Heaven. “Leaving his place in the immediate presence of God, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. Working with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealing his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God, he endeavored to excite dissatisfaction concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that they imposed an unnecessary restraint. Since their natures were holy, he urged that the angels should obey the dictates of their own will” (*The Great Controversy* 495.2). Lucifer argued that he and the angels were holy. They did not need the law controlling them. They did not need to be reminded by Christ that putting others first was what they should do— that equality was a good thing. No. They wanted to be able to follow their own wills. They wanted their freedom. “Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator's will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial” (*The Great Controversy* 493.1). Before Lucifer began to sow discord among the angels, there was equality. But then Lucifer brought discord. The argument that then began was whether it was more important to follow the laws that God set out (which kept the equality in Heaven), or was it more important for the angels to have their freedom to do what they liked. Choosing freedom would bring discord. And that would not just affect the angels in Heaven; “God's government included not only the inhabitants of heaven, but of all the worlds that He had created” (*The Great Controversy* 497.1). Choosing freedom would be unfair (inequality) to everyone else because it would bring about discord to everyone for the benefit of a few. But Lucifer chose the latter, citing the fact that he and the angels were holy and could do no wrong. And it was that argument that got Satan kicked out of Heaven. The angels and other worlds’ right to live in harmony was more important than Lucifer’s right to have freedom.

Adam and Eve

The concept of freedom vs. equality can be seen all the way back in Eden with Adam and Eve. They had to choose whether or not they would eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. This wasn't a test of appetite - it was a test of which they would put on top of the other: equality or freedom. Adam and Eve knew the consequences of their decision - if they ate the fruit, they would die and so would everything else. To eat the fruit would be to choose freedom. They would be saying that they had the freedom to do what they wanted; they would also be saying that they wanted a small government - because if they were like gods they wouldn't need God to help and teach them. If they didn't eat the fruit they would be choosing equality. They would have decided to not hurt other organisms, to treat them with equality, and instead restrict their behavior. They would have also accepted a big government which has rules and warnings to make sure everyone is treated with equality. Of course we know what Adam and Eve did, and by eating the fruit, they chose freedom over equality.

The end equals the beginning

The beginning of the world equals the end of the world. We have seen how back in Eden, Adam and Eve had to choose between freedom and equality, and unfortunately they chose freedom. Since then the entire great controversy on earth has been a big political campaign- Satan's campaign of freedom over equality, and God's campaign of equality over freedom. Revelation tells us that Jesus is the beginning and the end. We interpret this to mean the end equals the beginning- a chiasm- one of our main parabolic rules. So if the beginning equals the end, if the beginning was an issue of freedom vs. equality, the end will be as well. This is why we know that the Sunday Law will be an issue of equality and freedom. One side, the Republicans and maybe some compromising Democrats, will be pushing for freedom over equality, and the other side, the Democrats, will be pushing for equality over freedom. The fall at Eden was over this issue and the Sunday Law will be too. But where do Libertarians tie into all of this? We know that they are more strong supporters of freedom than Republicans. This means that they are actually more of a threat to equality than Republicans. A trend we are now seeing in the United States is a move away from old, evangelical Republicans as the main threat to equality, and a move towards younger, atheistic Libertarians. This doesn't mean that the Libertarian Party will become more popular than Republicans, it probably won't, as we saw in Lesson 102, almost half of Republicans favor libertarianism. This means that even though Libertarians as a party are weak, as an ideology it's stronger than ever, and it is libertarianism that is the main threat to equality today. So at the Sunday Law, the Libertarian Party doesn't have to be the main group promoting discrimination, it's the ideology, the promotion of freedom over equality without compromise, that will be seen- even if it's through another political party.

In summary:

Freedom vs. Equality

“the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint”

“the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities” and people can be forced to implement this.

Neither of these concepts are wrong in themselves: both freedom and equality are needed, but when they collide you have to choose which one to prefer over the other.

In this Movement we believe that equality belongs over freedom.

Examples:

People who live in slave states have the freedom to live however they want.

Vs.

No one has the right to enslave other people and deprive them of equality.

People have the freedom to discriminate against African Americans.

Vs.

No one can deny someone equality by discriminating against them on any basis.

People have the freedom to deny service in their business because of their beliefs.

Vs.

Everyone is equal, so everyone should have access to all services.

People can do what they want with their bodies - it's their freedom.

Vs.

No one can put others in danger because of their actions, or lack of action.

The Left Wing

Democrats

The Right Wing

Republicans Libertarians

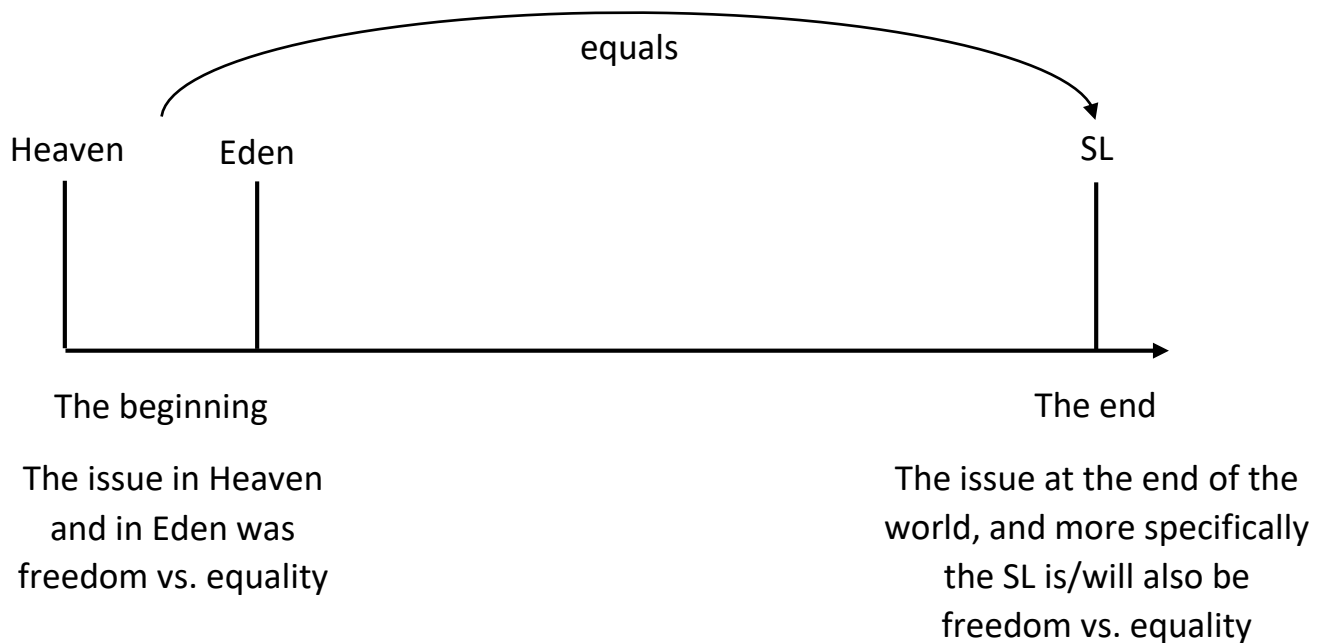
Equality

Freedom

often with morality or traditional values

Big government

Small government



Official Youth Prophecy Group website:

youthprophecygroup.org

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us at:

youthprophecygroup@gmail.com

Find all the YPG lesson videos at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQL-o2XOq_g

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>