

<sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. <sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. <sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ...



James 1 : 16 - 27

<sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. <sup>26</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



*We were made for the liberating paradox  
of Christian freedom*



“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.  
A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.”



**Martin Luther**

*On Christian Freedom*



Don't Be That Guy



Don't Be That Guy

Don't Do That Thing



Don't Be That Guy

Don't Do That Thing

Do Look Into the Something that Became a Someone

How can we experience the liberating  
paradox of Christian freedom?







Don't Be That Guy

“Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.”



James 1 : 16

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”



James 1 : 17

“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”



James 1 : 18



“firstfruits”

Here's the gift:



Here's the gift:



God owns you

Here's the gift:



God owns you

You belong to God



We define freedom as being *free from*



Christian freedom is not being free *from*,  
it's being free *when*





True freedom comes not by being free from,  
but being free when.

*I am most free **when** I surrender to, and **when** I  
live within, the restrictions of my design.*



Don't Be That Guy

Don't Do That Thing

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”



James 1 : 22

“...humbly accept the word planted in  
you, which can save you.”



James 1 : 21



Don't Be That Guy

Don't Do That Thing

Do Look Into the Something that Became a Someone

“But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”



James 1 : 25



“...when Christ came into the world, he said:  
“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but a body you prepared for me;  
with burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you were not pleased.

Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—  
I have come to do your will, my God.’”



Hebrews 10 : 5 - 7