

Part 2: Judgments – Fighting, Dangerous Animals, Carelessness

Exodus 21

22 If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.

23 And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, If they keep fighting, then the man shall be punished accordingly.

24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

These verses are quite revealing for they document that indeed, life does begin at conception, not at birth. Luke 1:41-44 also documents this as do many other Scriptures. John the Baptist, at six months gestation, could *feel so much joy* for the *conception* of Jesus Christ, that he (as a babe not even fully developed yet) leapt inside his mother's womb. It's verses like these (and there are many more) in the Bible that make it clear life begins at conception, proving that abortion is indeed murder. [Check out how Biblical Feasts Parallel with the Gestation of a Baby in this special study: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/402>]. It's a sign of the moral decay in the Christian countries that such an evil is even allowed, and truly, to the harm of the mother too. Many women are deceived and/or coerced into having an abortion and later regret it (even if it's years later). Thankfully, this is not the unpardonable sin and forgiveness can be found with belief in Jesus Christ and a sincerely repented heart. But our government should not be funding infanticide, which is what abortion is. Thank God for the many people who work to stop this evil but *the true root of the problem lies within our soul*. If we want to stop evils like abortion (and there are many more evils in the world), we must help God's children learn of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ and why His ways are far superior to anything else. The peace of mind that comes from repenting of your sins and working to kick them out of your heart (and keep them out) is something non-believers just don't understand (Phil 4:7). It's up to us who believe in Jesus Christ to *show them why having a relationship with Jesus Christ is so important*. From our thoughts, to our words, to our actions, to our body language... we must seek to let the Holy Spirit shine through us so, those who don't know Him, will be *drawn to the Light that is in us* (Mth 5:14). This is how sin is conquered: from the inside out and *by no other way*. You can make all the laws you want and people will still seek out abortions (and other sins) if their heart is not clean. That's why it's so important to truly clean your heart and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you when planting seeds of truth, be it by your actions or words (never forget how Mth 7 tells us to get the beam out of our own eye so we can see clearly to help others). This is the essence of 'walking in the Spirit' that Paul speaks of in Galatians 5.

So, we see then that, God made a law specifically concerning a baby in the womb. It's not a piece of tissue but a *real human being* who just has not fully developed yet. It therefore has a soul and spirit already placed in it by God Himself, which is probably why so many people like to deny the fact that life begins at conception. Many also deny we are more than mere carnal animals but the truth is that, humans have a soul and a spirit *that animals don't have* because we

all come from the Heavenly dimension before coming to this earth birthed into a flesh body. We were what many call ‘angels’, which simply means we lived in a spiritual body. And it is into a spiritual body we will all go back to once we die from this flesh body. Paul explains this well in 1 Cor 15. For further studies on this, check out the following special studies:

Two Bodies <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/406>

What Were We Like In the Beginning <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/322>

Where Are All of the People That Have Died <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/323>

Spiritual and Material Dimensions <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/263>

Now, because there is a chance a woman can be hurt when she’s pregnant, God gave Israel this judgment which truly has broad applications for it can also be applied to car accidents and so forth. The point is made clear in the four verses: if someone intentionally harms her unborn child, they are to be punished accordingly. If, however, the men stop fighting after they see she is hurt then the man is only to be punished according to what a judge decides and notice, the husband has a say in the punishment too. Each case is different so God allowed the husband and judge leeway here so adequate compensation could be made. But the implications of this are huge: **it shows us that even accidentally killing an unborn child is worthy of punishment**. We are therefore to be very careful with women who are pregnant and to protect and care for them. However, if the man keeps fighting the husband, even after he sees the pregnant woman is hurt, then he could even loose his life. Whatever happens to her, shall be compensated to him. If she loses her eye, he will too. And if her child dies, he will even loose his life IF he does not stop fighting when he sees the woman is hurt. Can you begin to see the breadth of God’s Laws? Even these judgments (along with the Statutes) are just ‘case laws’, which means they are basic principles set forth *that give examples for us to learn from* so we can learn how to determine what is right and wrong and how sin should be punished in any situation in life, no matter how ‘advanced’ we think our society is. Because there’s so many situations that can arise in life, God’s Law cannot cover everything that might happen. Therefore, God laid out the basic principles that govern individual conduct (which were the Ten Commandments) for everyone in the nations (to the highest ruler to the poorest person). And now, He is giving Israel basic judgment principles that are to be applied in the courts and truly, we can learn much from these principles to use in our every day life.

It's important to recognize this is not the only place God’s judgments required an ‘eye for an eye’ (etc.). It’s also in Deut 19:16-21 in regards to false witnessing as well as Lev 24:20 in regards to a man causing a ‘blemish’ (deformity or some sort of harm) in his neighbor. Those who call for an end to God’s Laws in our nation (sadly there are even Christians who do this) do not understand the wisdom and justice contained within God’s Precious Laws. They are designed to keep evil at bay: they are designed to punish evil and reward the wicked and to give justice to those who are harmed by others. If you had to lose your eye because you beat someone up so badly that they lost their right eye... how often do you think that sort of thing would happen? ***God’s Laws help us control our carnal mind, which is animalistic. Thus, it also helps us control our emotions, which are animalistic.*** Therefore, as Paul said...

7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

Rom 7:7-8

Paul asks: is God's Law bad (sin)? God forbid (no, of course it's not bad). God's Law shows us what is right versus what is wrong. I would have never known that lust was sinful if God's Law hadn't told me not to covet. But, because we're in a flesh body, our carnal side fights against our conscience. Our flesh body causes us to lust at that pretty woman (or man) who is already married. But, if we didn't have God's Word to tell us this is wrong (it's sinful and will lead to death) then we would be ignorant of the fact that it's wrong (it would be easy to deny our conscience, Rom 1). We would probably try to find a way to have illegitimate sex and then wonder why we have problems after that (Prov 6:32-35 also warns us of adultery and the consequences from it too, by the way). So, God's Law is good, because it helps us see what is wrong and what is right – that's why it's called the 'Light' (John 8:123, Ps 119:105, 130). And, the government is delegated to enforce God's judgments and statutes *regardless of whether someone has repented or not*. As we've noted before, the government cannot judge our heart; they can only judge our actions *and that's what God commands we be judged by*. But the reality is, no matter how good God's Law is, man is still bad. And man has (and always will) try to find ways 'around' God's Law (or any of the laws of the nation) so they can justify the sin they want to do. It is within this context that we can understand Jesus's teachings on the Mount...

38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Matt 5:38-39

We must understand that, by the time Jesus walked the earth, God's Law had been greatly polluted, distorted and most people did not truly understand it. As Jesus pointed out the reason in Matt 23:2 when He stated that *the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat*. This means they had changed the meaning of God's law to suit their lusts, greed and hatred. In other words, God's law back then (as it has become now) was *weaponized* and used to do evil instead of good. Jesus, therefore, was simply teaching people the purpose of God's Law, clarifying it and explaining how to keep it from their heart. If you study the fifth chapter of Matthew 5 you will see how Jesus was clarifying God's Laws. [Study more on this in: The Sermon on the Mount, Part 3 of 5 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/399>]. Jesus really was not a pacifist and He did not teach us to be either. His disciples were well armed and willing to die for Him until He told them to put away the sword on the night He was taken. One disciple even cut off the ear of the high priest's guard, which Jesus then healed (Lk 22:38, 49-51). The point was, *it was not time to fight*. Jesus *had* to die for the sins of mankind to save our souls before it would be time to fight (at His Second Advent *He will be fighting and win*).

But regarding this judgment here in Exodus 21 (which Jesus referred to in Mth 5:38-39), Jesus simply told us that *vengeance should not be in our heart*. While it's not bad to seek legal means to get justice, we must learn how to forgive in our heart for several reasons. One, God will not forgive us if we don't forgive others in our heart (Mth 6:12-15, 18:35). This does not mean we cannot take them to court when someone has legitimately done us wrong but we should not be doing so vengefully. Simply seek to be compensated for the wrong that was done for you. Secondly, we must forgive from our heart because otherwise we will be hurt by the pain, bitterness, anger and resentment... it will eventually turn into hate and defile our soul (Heb 12:15, Eph 4:31). These negative emotions will actually put us into spiritual bondage (Acts 8:23), which causes us to eventually spiritually die. Even in the flesh you will have many troubles if you don't let go (forgive) the wrongs others do to you, let alone the inner turmoil you will deal with.

So, while Jesus told us not to 'resist' evil in Mth 5:39, we must understand the context of His teaching simply means we shouldn't have a vengeful heart. James 4:7 tells us that we *should* resist the devil (which means *to stand against* or *oppose*, #436) so it's obvious that Jesus was speaking strictly of taking vengeance *for yourself*, meaning **we should *not* use the courts to satisfy our hate**, the courts should be used only to get justice. Further, the terminology *whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also* is simply a figure of speech that means we shouldn't be obsessed with vengeance. We've got to let things go (forgive). While there may be times that justice needs to be sought in court (such as in rape and murder cases), it's also expensive and likely not worth our time and effort to go to the courts for every offense committed against you. This is especially true when you are teaching the Word of God or planting seeds of truth. People sometimes get really offended at the truth (because it is convicting). Thus, we need to learn not to get offended when others get mad at us when we tell them the truth. Times like those (even if they seek to do you harm) are likely not times to take them to court. Forgive them, pray to the Father about it and move on. Also learn not to *cast ye your pearls before swine* (Matt 7:6).

Exodus 21

26 And if a man smite the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maid, that it perish; he shall let him go free for his eye's sake.

27 And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake.

This again refers to 'slavery' and it further confirms that slaves were not to be mistreated, for any slave that was harmed was to be freed. Even losing *one tooth* was enough to buy their freedom. This would also mean if they lost a finger, or an arm, or anything else that was not replaceable. In other words, masters were not do any permanent damage to their slaves or they had to let them go free. This would help the 'masters' to control their anger and force them to be just, even with slaves they didn't like. This too has broad applications for it can also be applied to our day and age with employers. You could even say these are God's "labor laws". This judgment shows that

that employers do not have the right to make their employees do something that would cause damage to their employees, especially *permanent* damage. They have a *responsibility to God* to make sure their employees have a safe environment to work in and in no wise can harm them with punishments or by the rules and regulations they make. However, this doesn't mean that employers are bound by God's Laws to give their employees every wish and desire they request (or demand). They are simply responsible to provide a safe workplace and to pay their employees what they promise, when they promised payment (Deut 24:14-15).

Exodus 21

28 If an ox gore a man or a woman, that they die: then the ox shall be surely stoned, and his flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be quit.

29 But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death.

This judgment might be a bit hard to understand for many today because much of the world no longer uses animals to farm with but less than 100 years ago, much of the world still had to use animals (instead of tractors) to work the soil, plant the seed and to harvest. It's really quite an amazing process and you should take the time to research how people used to farm with animals (and they still do in some parts of the world) for the Bible uses analogies and figures of speech regarding this. One such example is found in Matt 11:29-30 where Jesus uses the analogy of how two oxen (or horses or mules) work together to explain how He wants to work with us spiritually. If you don't understand the analogy He's using, you lose out on understanding how the Holy Spirit can help you overcome your sins! But it will also be hard to understand other Scriptures that refer to this, such as in Acts 15:10, Gal 5:1, 1 Tim 6:1, 1 or 9:9 and 1 Tim 5:18. Studying up on agriculture and the way they used to farm (including harvest) is truly necessary to understand God's Word. Learn more about this in the studies on...

- **The Yoke** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/859>
- **Unequally Yoked** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/900>

So, what we need to understand this judgment is: ox (oxen) are large animals that were used to pull farm equipment and God uses them as merely an example here. Any animal that causes harm to a person is to be put to death because animals cannot repent; once they turn mean like this then they'll forever do it – the evil cannot be un-learned (this is also why, after they are taught how to have sex with humans they are to be put to death as well, Lev 20:15-16).

We also see in this judgment that, if the owner did not know the animal was dangerous then only the animal was to die but it could not be sold nor could it be eaten. No benefit was to be given to its owner because the animal killed a human. However, if the owner knew the animal was dangerous, then *they were also to be put to death*. The had a responsibility to either put the animal to death or make sure it was not in a position to harm someone. In other words, *people could not use animals as a way to harm others nor were to they to be irresponsible with them*. If

this judgment was still enforced today the world would be a much better place to live in for, we would not have to put up with animals terrorizing people. Sadly, in many cases, it is our government who terrorizes the citizens by their irresponsible and ridiculous laws protecting supposed endangered animals. *This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish* (James 3:15). *The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD* (Prov 19:3). Notably, this is one of the promised cursings from God for disobeying His Laws (Lev 26:22) while God promises to rid us of evil beasts if our nation obeys Him (Lev 26:6).

Exodus 21

30 If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon him.

There is an exemption in this judgment because it is different than using one's own two hands to pre-meditately murder someone. There was always the chance that the owner was just being irresponsible and not actually maliciously trying to harm someone else. So, God allows for a ransom to be given instead of his life having to be taken. Naturally, it's likely that most of the time, the victim's family would prefer to the money. This is not acceptable in the case of murder by any other means: only here is a ransom allowed because of the nature of the death not being directly connected to maliciousness. In other words, guile and maliciousness would be very hard to prove in a case like this. Thus, God left the judgment, basically up to the family, who had the right to ask for *however much money they wanted* in the stead of having the owner of the ox put to death. This would not only help the victim but again, would be a great deterrent for people either being irresponsible with their animals or to use them to harm others.

Exodus 21

31 Whether he have gored a son, or have gored a daughter, according to this judgment shall it be done unto him.

This statute makes it clear that the value of a human life is the same regardless of gender (it also shows that there's only two genders!). No matter if a male or female is killed by the ox, the punishment for it and its owner is the same as stated in the prior verses.

Exodus 21

32 If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver; and the ox shall be stoned.

Any ox (or animal) who harmed a servant was to be put to death and the owner of the servant given monetary compensation for the harm done (after all, they would have to pay for the medical bills of their servant who was harmed). This shows that even harm to servants is not justifiable; even if done with an animal and even if it was not known to have caused harm previously. The price of a slave was thus thirty shekels of silver *regardless of gender*.

Interestingly, thirty pieces of silver was also the amount that Judas Iscariot ‘sold out’ Jesus Christ for (Matt 26:14-15). This was prophesied to happen in Zechariah 11:12-13, but why? Jesus was sold ‘cheap’, **not because He is cheap, but because we are**...

*Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, **for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves**, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.*

Isa 50:1

*For thus saith the LORD, **Ye have sold yourselves for nought**; and ye shall be redeemed without money.*

Isa 52:3

Indeed, we were redeemed without money. We have been redeemed by the priceless and precious blood of Jesus Christ (Lk 1:68, Gal 3:13, 1 Pt 1:18-19, Rev 5:9). Why did He have to redeem us? Because we’ve **all sold ourselves to sin**, because we have all sinned. We still use the analogy today that someone ‘sells out’ when they cast off their morals by willfully do something they know is wrong. Politicians are renown for this but it also happens in every area of life and there’s not one person living who has not sinned. In fact, the only person who has never sinned throughout all of time is God Himself, when He walked the earth incarnated as Jesus Christ, and that’s why He was able to redeem us from our sins *by paying for our sins with His own blood* (John 15:3). But, despite the fact that we all sin, God classifies ‘sinners’ into two categories: the righteous and the sinners. How is this classification made when we all sin? It’s because there’s a difference (a *huge* difference) between those who *rebelliously* sin and those who do try not to sin. Those who are rebelliously sinning are habitual sinners: they don’t care at all if they are sinning and they are not trying to obey God. Those who have truly accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and King *are not rebellious hearted* and therefore *sin is not a lifestyle* for them. It’s not that they never fall short, but they try hard to obey God (not out of self-righteousness, but) because they truly love Him, respect Him and believe His ways lead us to eternal life.

But, the majority of people still have a rebellious heart and that’s what those who do love and serve Jesus Christ are commissioned to help: we are to help the wayward children find their way back to our Heavenly Father and the only path that leads them there is through Jesus Christ as He so clearly said in John 14:6. Yet, sadly, many fall away from the true Jesus Christ, as the parable of the sower explains (Mth 13). Why? As the parable tells us, some people are just too shallow (self-serving) to stick with the truth (that we’re God’s children and made to please Him instead of ourselves) while others are just distracted by the cares of this world and/or the deceitfulness of riches. And some are also offended when they get a little ‘heat’ (persecution) for the truth’s sake. So, there are different reasons but what it usually boils down to is that: when people find it ‘unprofitable’ (in worldly ways) to stick with God, *they change their morals*... or lose them, however you want to look at it, their heart and mind is corrupted.

However, though we all have sold out to sin in one way or another (*for we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, **sold under sin*** -Rom 7:14) we all have an opportunity to repent because of the sacrifices Jesus Christ made for us. He was sold for the price of a slave, beaten until He was nearly unrecognizable, mocked, spit upon and then murdered in one of the most inhumane ways: crucifixion. He was treated like a horrible criminal when the Man had never sinned in His life. And *He did it all for you, and me*, just so we would have the opportunity to repent and return to our Heavenly Father. He felt it was worth all the agonizing pain (physically and spiritually – Ps 51: to free us from the bondage of sin. Because Jesus Christ redeemed us from slavery with His very own blood. This means *He endured our punishments for us* (Isa 53:3-7, 1 Pt 2:24). Jesus didn't have to but *He willing paid for our sins. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13). The price of a slave was thirty pieces of silver and so, Jesus was sold out by His own disciple for a mere price of a slave.

When we sin, we 'sell out' our eternal life as well as our flesh life. And, although we will still die in the flesh (Heb 9:27), we don't have to die spiritually IF we believe Jesus Christ (being the perfect sacrifice) died for us, repent and agree to *sincerely* obey all God's laws (the Bible) *from our heart* (the best we can). In other words, if we agree to stop rebelling against YHVH (God Almighty, our Creator) we can live eternally in His Kingdom but otherwise, we'll be put to death *spiritually* (at the end of the Millennium), which means we won't exist in any form anymore (Rev 20). Denying Jesus Christ means you are still rebelling against God and thus, you won't be protected from God's wrath when Jesus Christ returns (or from His judgment - going to prison (hell) if you die physically before Jesus returns). The point to remember is that when we sin willingly, we sell ourselves to death, who is Satan. We become Satan's slave and that leads us to spiritual death. Satan *does not care at all about us*. He *uses people* to get what he wants and the consequences of it led to our physical and then spiritual death. But, if we accept the price Jesus Christ paid for us, we will stop 'selling out' to sin and begin to take control of our carnal mind and learn to obey God instead of being controlled by our fleshly lusts and pride.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
Gal 5:24

This is why the Proverbs wisely advises us...

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.
Prov 23:23

We 'buy' the truth by studying God's Word for ourselves (2 Tim 2:15) and putting it into practice in our lives (James 2). Don't sell out to sin; the wages are not good (Rom 6:23). If you fall short, repent and work hard to do better. For, ***by mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil*** (Prov 16:6).

Exodus 21

33 And if a man shall open a pit, or if a man shall dig a pit, and not cover it, and an ox or an ass fall therein;

34 The owner of the pit shall make it good, and give money unto the owner of them; and the dead beast shall be his.

This judgment shows we have a personal responsibility to do things in a safe way that won't harm others and also to compensate others financially when our negligence harms them. Though one example is given here, the implications of this judgment are *very* broad and can be applied to many other areas of our life. The book of Deuteronomy has another statute that is similar in nature, which helps us to get a better understanding of 'the way' of God's laws...

When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence.

Deut 22:8

This statute simply tells us that when making a home (or any building) that has a flat roof that can be walked upon, you need to put a fence around it so no one falls off. This is just common sense but it lays the groundwork for safety procedures for all construction. And the judgments here in Exodus lay the groundwork for safety at work and in the field. So, no matter what you are doing in life, be it working at work or at home, or driving 'to and fro', we all have a responsibility to God, *and to each other*, to do whatever we do *safely*. It does not matter whether it's work, shopping, construction, entertainment, education or Church, we must take the physical (and spiritual) safety of others into consideration (1 Cor 8:9, 1 Pt 2:16).

However, we must also understand that not all accidents can be avoided and we should not demand our government make more and more laws to try to prevent any and all accidents from happening. The biggest deterrent for people being irresponsible is *punishing them for their irresponsibility*, which this judgment sets forth the principle to do. The reason there are so many accidents in our nations today is because the government does not punish people for their irresponsibility: they actually encourage it through their foolish laws and lack of prosecuting real crimes (they are either imprudent or want more control over the people).

Exodus 21

35 And if one man's ox hurt another's, that he die; then they shall sell the live ox, and divide the money of it; and the dead ox also they shall divide.

36 Or if it be known that the ox hath used to push in time past, and his owner hath not kept him in; he shall surely pay ox for ox; and the dead shall be his own.

God's Law gives us principles that cover every situation. So, what if your animal (or machinery) harms someone else's animal (or machinery)? If the owner was not aware that the animal was harmful (and a diligent search would have to be made to find this out) then the living ox would have to be sold and the money divided between the two. This is fair only if the owner of the ox that did harm was unaware of the nature of the beast. However, if he knew the ox had a history

of being mean then he would have to fully compensate the owner of the dead ox and he would get the dead ox. Obviously, the judge would have to find out if there were any provable cases of the ox being mean before this time, as so much of the judgment relied on this factor. What we see here is that *owning property comes with responsibility*. Freedom is not truly free; it comes with responsibility. The lie that Satan tells (and many people willingly believe) is that we can be free to make our own decisions but also ‘free’ to be responsible for our decisions. If we want to be free to decide what we do and who we worship, we must also accept the consequences for our actions (whether we like it or not). That’s what freedom is all about. You can choose to sin habitually but you’ll end up dying in the end. Or, you can choose to strive to obey God’s Laws (and accept His Son Jesus Christ) and live eternally. It’s our choice (Deut 30).

But all too often people don’t like having to be responsible; they would rather be slaves and complain about their situation than be free and *actually doing something to change their situation*. This is truly the root of the spiritual war and why truth is so important. *People must understand the consequences of the decisions they make* because every one of us has been given free will from the time we were created in the first earth age. Our life in this flesh body is a gift from God (our Creator, YHVH) because we can directly experience the consequences of our sin and where it eventually leads (death), which is something that was hard for us to grasp in a spiritual body. Learn more about this with the following studies:

- Free Will or By Force <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/260>
- Called or Chosen? <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/761>

So, *this chapter sets forth judgments that pertain to **personal responsibility***. This is a very important fact in life: we are all responsible for our *own* decisions. Even if you work for another person (or are a slave), you are still responsible for your actions, even if you are not responsible for your provisions. So many people want to be ‘free’ to do ‘as they want’ but then *they don’t want to endure the consequences of what they do*. For example: eating food that God tells us is unhealthy (Lev 11, Deut 14) does not defile your spirit (your thoughts and desires do - Mth 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23) but *it will defile your flesh* (it’ll make you physically sick). You cannot escape this no matter how many pills you take. Our actions do have consequences and we’ll have to fact up to that truth sooner or later. What our Heavenly Father is trying to help His children understand is that: the path to freedom (and eternal life) comes only through *self-discipline in righteousness, which His Word defines*. This is why there’s only ‘one path’ to eternal life and that is through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...

3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 17:3

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.
2 Cor 3:17

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

*32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.***

John 8:31-32

*22 But **be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.***

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

*25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, **this man shall be blessed in his deed.***

James 1:22-25

AMEN.