

FREEDOM

Freedom produces variety.

Religious	Political
Autonomous Groups of Brothers and Sisters	Government Serves the People
The Apostles established local assemblies modeled after the synagogue. There was no central authority. Christ is the head of the Church and the Scriptures are its only guide for faith and practice. Those early churches were the ancestors of the Ana-Baptists. The offices of these assemblies are Elders (plural) and Deacons. These serve the people for the common good of the local assembly. Within this system each local church develops its own personality. There will be differences in how each practices the Faith within the context of biblically sound doctrine.	The United States is the only time in history that this form of government has happened — God gives us liberties and government protects them and serves the people. The states were to be autonomous, sovereign entities with a federal government which served them for the common good of the states and their citizens. This system, if properly followed, guarantees differences in the practices of each state, yet the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution unite them around basic principles.

Observing those who follow systems of freedom, we find that they do not strike and kill those with whom they disagree.

When Adam sinned, he surrendered his freedom and became a slave. Since the Fall, man became self-centered and has a desire to control others for personal benefit as a god. Behind the scenes, Satan is at work to destroy us and to make us slaves. Jesus brings freedom.

SLAVERY

Obligatory standards produce conformity.

Religious	Political
Hierarchies with Piety and Laity	People Subservient to Government by the Elite
Within 150 years after Pentecost, some churches began honoring hierarchies by first appointing bishops — an elitist level of leadership. The common man was considered ignorant. This developed into a church system called “Catholicism” with bishops, cardinals, and a pope — the Vicar of Christ on earth. The Bible was withheld from the commoner who was to support, trust, respect, and honor the religious elite. The Protestants came out of that system, and the churches (denominations) they established retained a hierarchical system, except the people now had the Bible. [The Catholics and the Reformers persecuted and killed the Ana-Baptists.]	Throughout human history kings and dictators have gained control over peoples who are servants of the state and the elite. These are systems composed of the haves and the have nots. The elite treat the poor as ignorant animals who serve them. Human life is of little value. Thus, the fruit of socialism is slavery. [In the USA, the progressives want a strong central government that manages the states and the people. Their overall objective is a one-world government and monetary system with total control of everything.]

Observing those who establish systems of slavery, we find that they will strike and kill those with whom they disagree.

“Jesus responded, ‘I assure you: Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.’” John 8:34–36 (HCSB)

Jesus said:

“All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Matthew 11:29–30 (HCSB)

Jesus said:

“A thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:10–11 (HCSB)

Jesus said:

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil? For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart. A good man produces good things from his storeroom of good, and an evil man produces evil things from his storeroom of evil. I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Matthew 12:33–37 (HCSB)

“By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother.” 1st John 3:10–12a

Jesus asked:

“Didn't Moses give you the law?

Yet none of you keeps the law!

Why do you want to kill Me?” John 7:19 (HCSB)