



LOVE... WHERE YOU LIVE

THE ART OF **NEIGHBORING**

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ...

1 Peter 2:4-8, 13-21

...⁶ For in Scripture it says:
"See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame." ...

1 Peter 2:4-8, 13-21

...⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"⁸ and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." ...

1 Peter 2:4-8, 13-21

... ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ...

1 Peter 2:4-8, 13-21

... ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. ...

1 Peter 2:4-8, 13-21

... ¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? ...

1 Peter 2:4-8, 13-21

... But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:4-8, 13-21

"As a humanist and a progressive, myself, I'm critical of any religion which in doctrine or practice places false barriers to human actualization...or discourages or forbids inquiry, education, and personal evolution. I believe the combination of science and liberal arts can foster a sustainable open society with a culture of opportunity for all. And I'll admit that religious fundamentalism, at a time when science and humanism provide such real hope for humanity, scares me."

Mike Mennonno | Huffington Post



Sonny: "Now that I have fulfilled my purpose, I don't know what to do."

Detective Spooner: I guess you'll have to find your way like the rest of us, Sonny...That's what it means to be free."

"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 the Freedom of the Christian



What is Christian Freedom?

What is Christian Freedom for?

How can we get Ultimate Freedom?



What is Christian Freedom?

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How can we get Ultimate Freedom?

"Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves."

1 Peter 2:16

"I don't believe in rules. I think it's the heart that should talk...And therefore [relationships] are a game."

Diane von Furstenburg | The Woman I Wanted to Be

True freedom comes neither through the *absence of restrictions*, nor merely the *presence of restrictions*, but *by living in accordance with the **right restrictions***.



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"Show proper respect to everyone,
love the family of believers, fear
God, honor the emperor."

1 Peter 2:17

What is Christian Freedom for?

→ **Respecting** everyone

"I had discovered that the most compassionate people I interviewed also have the most well-defined and well-respected boundaries. It surprised me at the time, but now I get it. They assume that other people are doing the best they can, but they also ask for what they need and don't put up with a lot of crap. ...

Dr. Brene Brown | Rising Strong

... I lived the opposite way: I assumed that people weren't doing their best, so I judged them and constantly fought being disappointed, which was easier than setting boundaries. Boundaries are hard when you are a pleaser hell-bent on being easy, fun and flexible. ...

Dr. Brene Brown | Rising Strong

... Compassionate people say no when they need to, and when they say yes, they mean it. They're compassionate because their boundaries keep them out of resentment. ...

Dr. Brene Brown | Rising Strong

... When I do something because I feel pushed, pressured, guilt-tripped or shamed into it, I expect people to be appreciative in addition to being respectful and professional. *Ninety percent of the time they are none of the above.*"

Dr. Brene Brown | Rising Strong

What is Christian Freedom for?

- Respecting everyone
- **Love** the family of believers

"...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood..."

1 Peter 2:5

"The imagery of the living stones being built into a single unit implies that the significance and purpose of the individual Christian cannot be realized apart from community with other believers."

Karen Jobe

What is Christian Freedom for?

- Respecting everyone
- Love the family of believers
- **Honor the emperor**



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How can we get Ultimate Freedom?

Interviewer: "Then you have had the freedom you wanted?"

Sagan: "Yes...I was obviously less free when I was in love with someone...But one's not in love all the time. Apart from that...I'm free."

Francoise Sagan | Le Monde

"Christ suffered for **you**..."

1 Peter 2:21



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