

E X A L T E D

C H R I S T

A series on the book of John

**SEE HIM HIGHER SO**

**THAT YOU LIVE HIGHER**

G O O D T H E O L O G Y

D E S C E N D S F R O M W H O G O D I S

G O D



M A N

B A D T H E O L O G Y

A S C E N D S F R O M W H O W E A R E

FOLLOWING OUR WAY  
TO FREEDOM

## Three Types of Freedom

1. Freedom from Restraint: free to go where we want, be who we want.
2. Freedom from Evil: free from negative and harmful experiences.
3. Spiritual Freedom: the ability to function the way God designed us.

**Jesus Teaches Us: If You Want to Be Free, Follow Me!**

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

John 8:31-36 (NIV)

<sup>45</sup> I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.

Psalm 119:45 (NIV)



# FREEDOM IS FOR HIS FOLLOWERS

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “**If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.**” <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

# FREEDOM IS FOR HIS FOLLOWERS

<sup>4</sup> Remain [abide] in me, as I also remain [abide] in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:4 (NIV)

# FREEDOM IS INSIDE-OUT

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>**Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**”

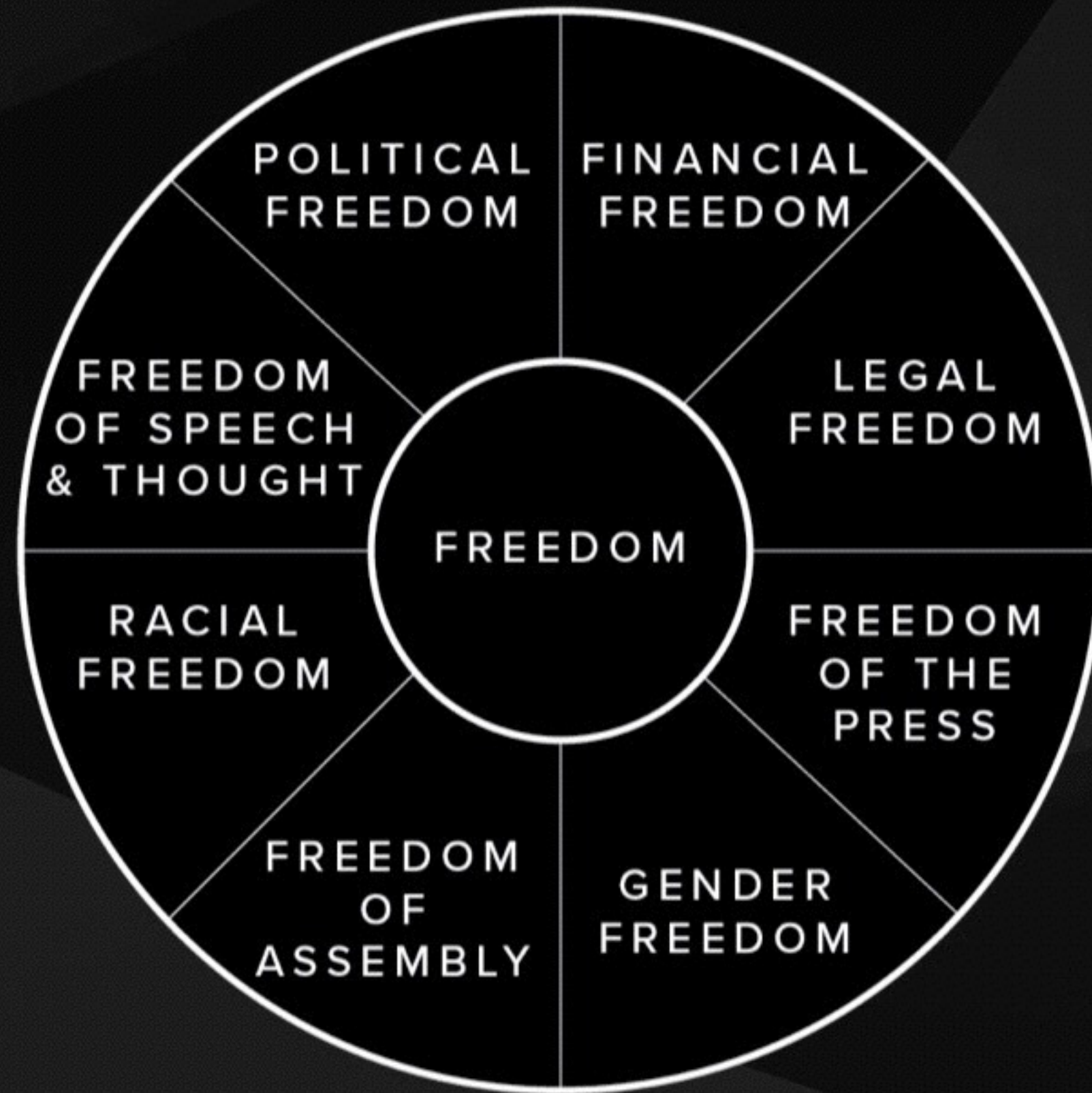
John 8:31-32 (NIV)

# FREEDOM IS INSIDE-OUT

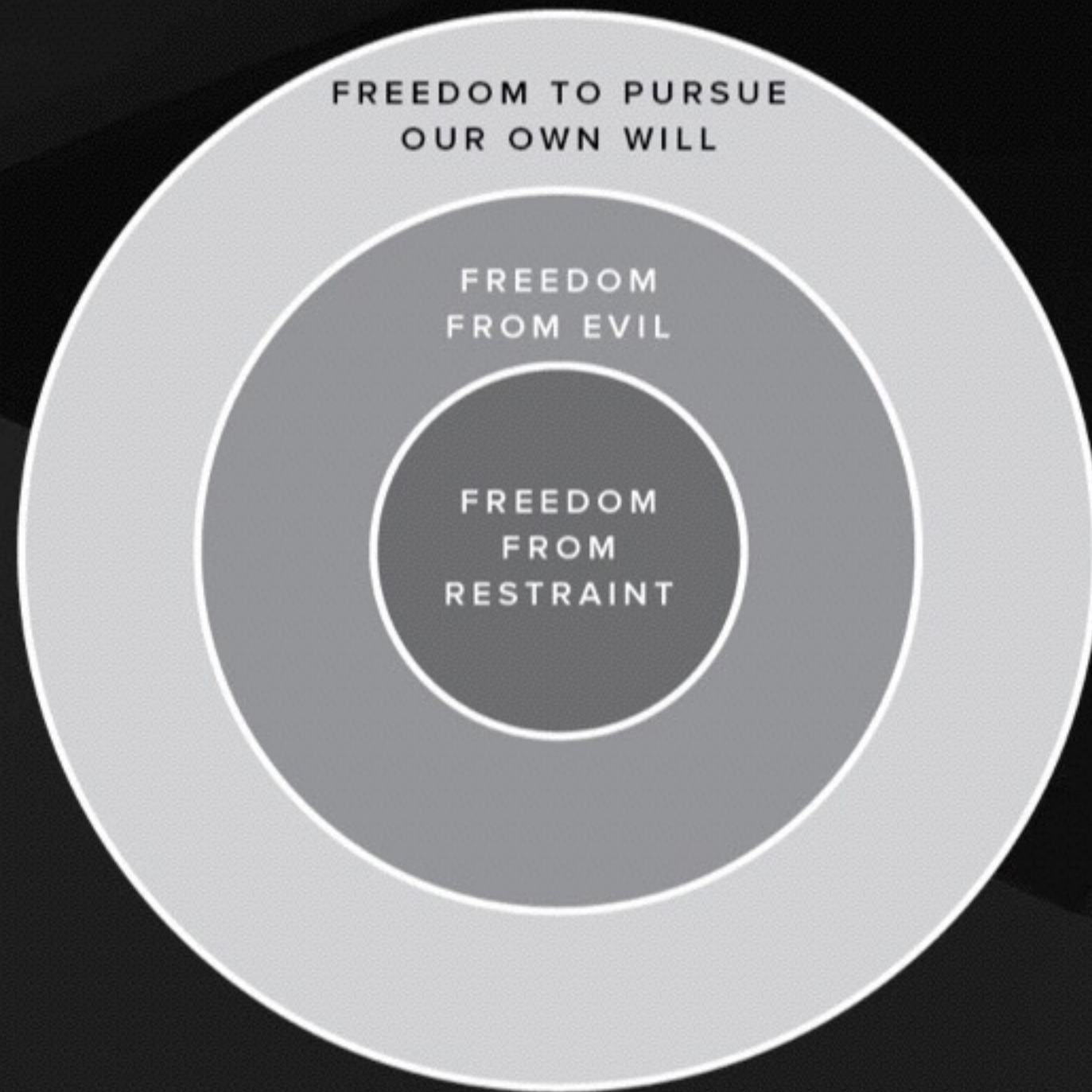
“How can you call a man free when his pleasures rule over him?”  
- Socrates

<sup>1</sup>It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

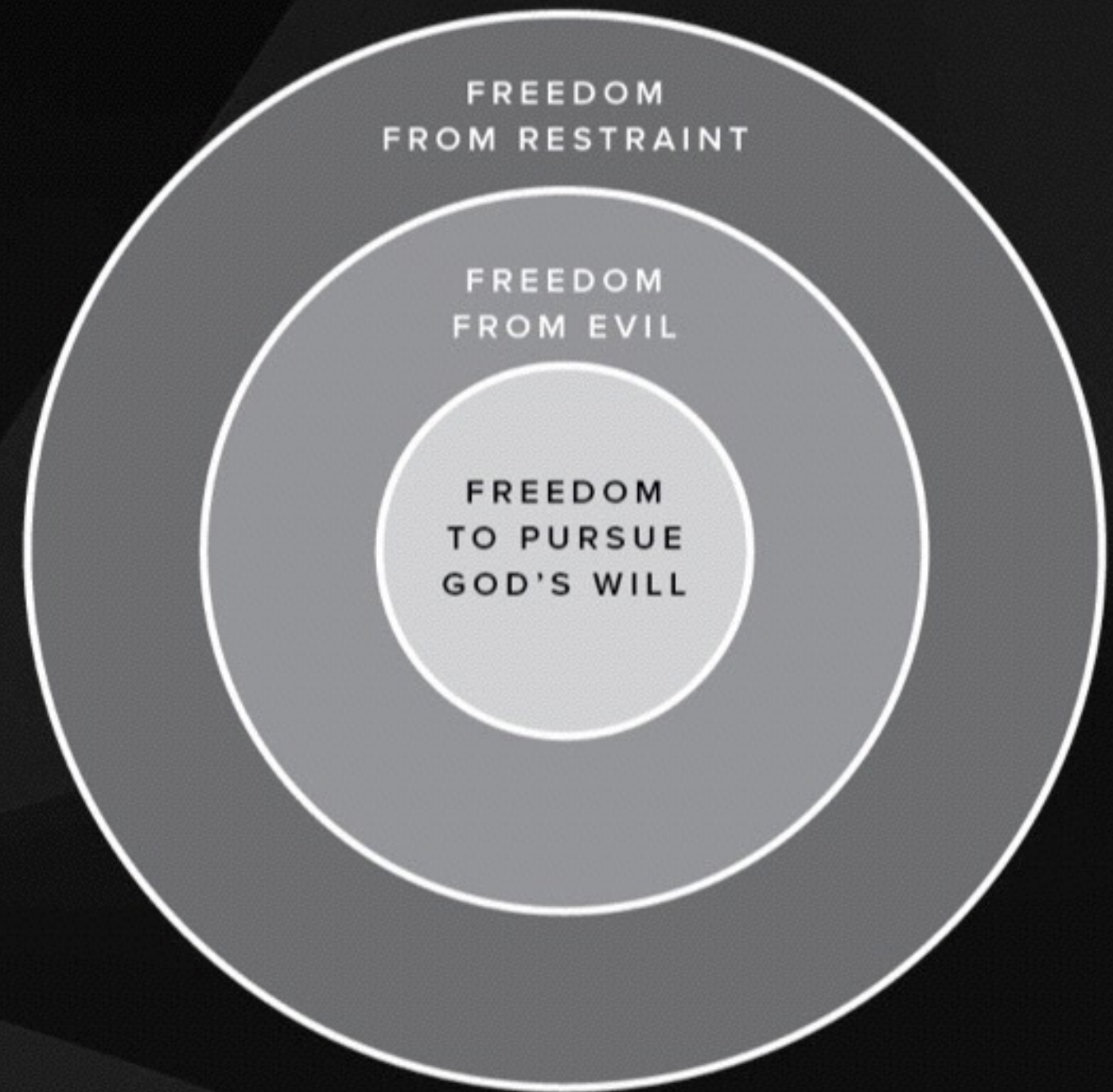
Galatians 5:1 (NIV)



**OUTSIDE-IN FREEDOM  
PRODUCES AUTONOMY**



**INSIDE-OUT FREEDOM  
PRODUCES  
SPIRITUAL FREEDOM**



# FREEDOM COMES FROM HIS POWER

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, **and the truth will set you free...** <sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup>**So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**”

John 8:31-32, 34-36 (NIV)

# CHRISTIANITY'S INFLUENCE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS



In China, for thousands of years, girls at the age of five had their feet bound in order to force them to walk tiptoe and sway seductively.

“In spite of the longstanding practice of foot binding, it was Christianity’s influence that eventually led the Chinese government to outlaw this dehumanizing practice in 1912...Had it not been for the presence of Christianity, Chinese girls today might still have their feet bound and deformed.

As in many other instances, the freedom and dignity that women enjoy in much of today’s world is largely the result of the valiant efforts of Christians who, little by little, made life in a fallen world more humane.”

- Alvin J. Schmidt,  
*How Christianity Changed the World*



# CHRISTIANITY'S INFLUENCE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

## Christianity's Influence Directly Led to the Following:

- *Women's Voting Rights in America.*
- *Abolishment of polygyny in Western civilization.*
- *Outlaw of the burning of widows in India, Scandinavia, and New Zealand.*
- *Eradication of child brides in many societies.*

“As a result of Jesus Christ and his teachings, women in much of the world today, especially in the West, enjoy more privileges and rights than at any other time in history. It takes only a cursory trip to an Arab nation or to a Third World country, to see how little freedom women have in countries where Christianity has had little or no presence. Today radical feminists, many of whom express a strong hatred for Christianity, seem not to recognize that had it not been for Jesus Christ's influence on his followers, women would likely have no more freedom in the West than the Islamic women have today in the Middle East. Freedom indeed has its ironies. It allows its beneficiaries to deny and despise the source of their freedom, in this instance, Jesus Christ's salutary influence in the life of women.”

- *Alvin J. Schmidt,  
How Christianity Changed the World*