

FREE TO BE PEACEFUL

(Peace continued...freely)

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law

Romans 13:8 (NLT)

Scripture from Romans is selected for this “Free to Be Peaceful” series. They are Paul words to the Church in Rome. I chose to use verse 8 for this Teddy Talk, but the words preceding 8 are Paul’s instructions, “Pay your taxes, too, for these reasons.” Then he lists some reasons: “government workers need to be paid.” He writes that “They are serving God in what they do.” He ends verse 7 with “give respect and honor to those who are in authority.”

I had to ask myself, what has really changed since the first century AD, and my overwhelming response to my mental question is, “Not much!” Verse 8 follows verses 6 and 7’s requirement to “fulfill your responsibilities to the government” providing the most powerful words Paul considers as an obligation for Christians, “love one another.”

Sometimes I catch myself viewing my roles and responsibilities as restrictions or limits on my freedom. It reminds me of the impatience related to my elementary school clock watching. I sat watching the second hand click toward freedom on the clock above the chalk board. I can almost hear my thoughts now “just get me out of here so I can throw rocks at cans I stacked on the track, add rope to make those cans walking extensions on my feed, and include a bareback horse ride as fast as possible across the open fields at my home. Anticipation of freedom outside school always made me anxious but smiling.

Freedom is now and was then a state of consciousness I can still access at any time. I learned to pause for a gentle breath, and feel my heart and mind align even though they might have been marching to a different drummer. My passion then and now is to be truly my best self. To move into the presence of pure being and become aware of the light blazing within my young heart, and not through the slightly older one today.

My passion is to truly be my best self. I love to move into the presence of pure being and become aware of the light blazing within me. I believe I was wearing imaginary masks then and now consciously attempt to abandon the restrictions. Imaginary chains that I thought restricted me to a small desk in the last class of the day dissolved into opportunities to play and to love life on the plains. I believe I am free to be what I am created to be, whatever and wherever I choose.

Peace Always

Ted