

Column on time

The ultimate freedom

As long as there is freedom it seems to be self-evident.

In this week of Liberation-day we are reminded again that this is not self-evident. Only in contrast with un-freedom we realize the great good of freedom. Someone staying in a prison really appreciates freedom.

Therefore the liberation of an inhuman regime in 1945 was such a penetrating experience. We owe this liberation to the willingness of the allied forces to go to battle for this and to the soldiers who were willing to fight and if necessary to lose their life for this.

It is good to realize that freedom always has to be protected. It is the task of the nation and the government to create the safe frame in which freedom has its place and where necessary its limitation. In order to find this balance our government needs citizens in our democratic system who critically and involved keep the government on her toes.

After 1945 many more liberation-processes have been taking place. Fortunately we left the oppressing culture of class distinction behind us. Amongst others women and homosexuals have secured a greater freedom of life fulfillment in their emancipation movements. Individualism has realized a greater freedom of choice for people in various areas.

Are we completely free people than?

The un-freedom of our time is that we are submerged with too much freedom.

It has become impossible for us to do and experience all things we would want. Aside from that the government has given up various monopolies which give us even more freedom of choice: we even have to choose our own energy supplier.

In all our possibilities to fill in our life in freedom it can also become a burden.

How do we know to have made the right choice in all freedom? Do we not miss out on something else, something essential because we have chosen this now?

I would like to emphasize Christian freedom here.

Because faith can give an inner freedom which exceeds other freedoms; a freedom of another kind, the ultimate freedom. In faith we can experience that we may unconditionally be one of the family with God, only through mercy, in and through Jesus.

This being adopted by God makes us spiritually free from all un-freedom other people may lay on a human being and which most of all men lays on her-/himself. In short: because we are already adopted by God we have no more need to prove ourselves.

For this inner freedom it makes no difference under which circumstances a human being lives. This inner freedom makes us truly free to do what we have to do in this world. The reformer Luther puts Christian freedom at the beginning of his script "The freedom of a Christian" from 1520 as follows into words:

A Christian is a free lord, subject to none.

A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant, subject to all.

Thus you are liberated of the expectation to have to realize yourself all the time. Then as a human being you can in all freedom and lighthearted do what is necessary, what time, place and circumstances ask of you.

That is ultimate freedom.

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