

## Call to Clarity: Freedom

Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that. Considered as to its nature, it is the faculty of choosing means fitted for the end proposed. In all voluntary acts choice is subsequent to a judgment upon the truth of the good presented, declaring to which good preference should be given. No sensible man can doubt that judgment is an act of reason, not of the will. The end, or object, both of the rational will and of its liberty is that good only which is in conformity with reason.[Freedom] attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude. ( Catechism of the Catholic Church 1731, Leo XIII Libertas para. 5)

The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants. The power of self-determination attributed to the will; the quality of being independent of fate or necessity. - <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/freedom>.

“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life...” *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992) (Justice Kennedy).

"The freedom to speak one's mind is not only an aspect of individual liberty -- and thus a good unto itself -- but also is essential to the common quest for truth and the vitality of society as a whole." *Hustler Magazine, Inc. v. Falwell*, 485 U.S. 46 (1988).

The above quotations illustrate that modern conceptions of freedom tend to be voluntarist, subjectivist, and disordered. It is voluntarist in that it sees freedom as being the power to choose independent of any judgment of the objects of that choice. It is subjectivist in that choice is a purely internal act clear of any mind independent standards, norms, or judgments. It is disordered in that freedom is seen as a good in itself, and no longer directed towards an end outside of our choosing.

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