

# Democracy

([Exodus 15:1-8](#), [Acts 15:1-21](#), [John 8:31-36](#))

There is no specific, universally accepted definition of 'democracy', but **equality** and **freedom** have been identified as important characteristics of democracy since ancient times. The most popular definition is that which was given by Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people". We all know how much Lincoln had worked for equality, freedom for all and the abolition of racial discrimination and slavery.

God didn't make human beings as robots. He made them in His own image and gave them freedom to do anything in His sovereign will. He told them what was good for them what would bring death. The real freedom is to walk in the path of His will. That's why the Psalmist could say, "I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts"( [Ps 119:45](#)). But Satan always twists God's definitions. When God said you can do anything freely in the Garden of Eden within the boundary of His command not to eat the fruit of life ,Satan told Eve that she was not really free .According to Satan freedom is to do whatever we like irrespective of the consequences. In his deception he made Eve to doubt

God's goodness and ultimately had stolen their freedom and made them his slaves. Had not God given freedom to Adam and Eve? Had He not told them what was life? What was death? But mankind had chosen death rather than life.

Even then the sovereign God of mercy and justice made everything for the human beings to redeem them from the bondage of sin, self and Satan. One thing God won't do is He will not force us to do anything. We need to chose freedom like Lazarus who came out of the tomb had to choose to make himself free from the grave cloths. Only the Son of God can make us free. This is today's Gospel lesson. Those who are freed from the bondage of sin will always boast in the God who has redeemed them and always defeat the enemies who threaten their freedom. This is today's Old Testament lesson. It is God who appoints leaders over His people. Those leaders if they know God's will in His word they can lead the people in spite of the differences and dissensions that may arise. This leader not only fulfill the very purpose of God for their lives but also help others to do the same .This is today's epistle lesson. If the leaders of the church act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with their God they can show a good example to the political leaders around them. Then church can play a major role in our nation building in the path of equality,

justice, peace and prosperity. This is God's call to His people in today's scripture lessons.

**The Gospel lesson: [John 8:31-36](#)**

**Let us accept Jesus as our Lord and savior and have true freedom!**

The day Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit they became the slaves of fear. Till that moment they never knew any kind of fear. The fear of what other may think instead of the fear of God has robbed them of the freedom that God had given them. By breaking God's law Adam and Eve sinned and from that time onward they and the subsequent human race became slaves to sin and Satan. That's why the writer of the letter to Hebrews called Satan the holder of the power of death and human beings being held in slavery by their fear of death ([Heb 2:10](#)). Therefore true freedom is freedom from the fear of death. Jesus by dying on the cross and rising on the third day he removed that fear. Therefore only Jesus can make us free completely. After that we can walk freely only when we walk

in the path of His word. Only those who were redeemed by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal savior can rejoice always and sing like the Israelites who sang along with Moses and rejoiced after they came out of the bondage of Egypt. This is today's Old Testament lesson.

**The Old Testament lesson: [John 8:31-36](#)**

**Let us sing songs of salvation**

In the book of Exodus we see how God freed the people of Israel with his mighty hand from Egypt. The God instituted Passover corresponds to the Holy Communion we take part. Jesus was killed as our Passover lamb. When we accept Jesus as our savior and are redeemed from the bondage of sin we can always rejoice in the Lord with the joy of salvation and sing praises to God like the people of Israel who rejoiced and praised God when they came out of Egypt. Nobody can have this joy of salvation without accepting Jesus as their personal savior. They also will not have any relationship with God. They may be attending the church regularly on Sundays. Those who are saved also if they don't desire the sincere milk of God's word shall not

have any proper understanding of God's will .Thinking that they know everything they cause dissensions and disputes in the church. In such circumstances if there are leaders like Peter and James they will prevent the church from disintegrating and keep the harmony among the members. This is today's Epistle lesson.

**The Epistle lesson: [Acts 15:1-21](#)**

**Let us become the leaders who can lead people in the path of peace!**

The progress of any family or church or a nation depends on its leadership. A nation progresses forward in the path of prosperity and development when the leaders are God fearing and people of integrity and Honesty. The reason why USA, UK and other European countries have achieved tremendous development is their leaders. We all know how God fearing, honest and hard working was Abraham Lincoln who gave the popular definition of democracy and worked for the abolition of racial discrimination and slavery. From the time USA started taking the name of God out of its official authority we all know how it is paying the price for its godless policies. Yet there are some who are truly God (God of the Bible) fearing in this country. That's

why God is still blessing that country.

The same thing happened in the case of the early church. When apostles like Peter and other went out obeying the great commission making disciples the church grew within a short span of time. Later Paul was responsible for the expansion of the church worldwide. Both the Jews and non Jewish people accepted Jesus. And as the church was expanding there were also some problems and disputes .But Luke in the book of Acts tells us how the Apostles tackled the problems by strictly abiding by the word of God which they had. In this way they maintained unity and harmony in the church.

The first problem that arose in those days was, the Jews who accepted Jesus Christ were forcing people who were non Jews to be circumcised. Then the apostles formed in to a council and after hearing due hearing to all the opinions came to a consensus regarding the order of the Church and circulated it to all the churches. Whatever decision they had taken they took only according to the principles laid down in the word of God.

How ever we know how the church went astray in the history

when it deviated from the word of God and gave undue importance to traditions, ritual and buildings. Therefore let us heed to the words of Jesus, “If you continue in my word then are ye my disciples indeed .You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free,” and set right our lives and our churches. Lets us have the true freedom that comes from the obedience to the word of God and go into the world in the path of His word .Let us go and make disciples .May God help us !

### **Life Application:**

If we stop at red signal and proceed at green signal we reach our destination without any traffic jam .In the same way if we abide in the word of God the vehicle of our salvation takes us to heaven without any hindrance.

Jyothi Prakash. Ethakoti

[jpethakoti@gmail.com](mailto:jpethakoti@gmail.com)