

## 4. STRAIGHT JACKET OR FREEDOM?

### *Today's Verses:*

Exodus 20:1-3  
Exodus 19:4-6  
Genesis 1:1

Exodus 20:2-17  
Psalm 119:45  
James 1:25

Romans 8:1-2  
Luke 22:20

## INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 3:

Tim Keller quotes Emma Goldman as saying that Christianity was, "The leveler of the human race, the breaker of man's will to dare to do...an iron net, a straight-jacket which does not let him expand and grow." Many people hold views like this of Christianity: that Christianity is straightjacket of sorts, and most Christians don't know how to rationally answer them. Today we are going to talk about how some people see Christianity as a straightjacket that confines and stifles creativity.

## DISCUSSION

What rule did you get in trouble for frequently breaking in your life?  
What happened?

## EXPLANATION

What rules do you use to govern your life right now?  
Have they changed over the years?  
If so, how?

## APPLICATION – READ EXODUS 20:1-17

What is the difference between obedience and slavery?  
How can obedience INCREASE our freedom in how we live?  
Why is God worth obeying?

## MISSION

How can we best explain how the Gospel brings freedom?  
Have you seen people in slavery to themselves or their desires?  
What does it look like?  
How can surrendering a life to Jesus defeat our own slavery and bring true freedom?

## HOMEWORK

Read Chapter 3 in the Reason for God.