

Liberty as Non-Interference, or Negative Freedom Assignment 2

Read the selection from Charles Taylor's "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty," then answer the following questions.

1. What's the difference between restricting liberty by putting in a traffic light and restricting liberty by prohibiting a religion?
2. What does Taylor mean when he says that the Hobbesian view of liberty neglects "significance?"
3. What is a "quantitative" approach to liberty? Why does Taylor think it is insufficient to capture what's important about liberty?
4. How do the examples of fear, comfort, and spite reduce one's freedom, according to Taylor? How do these examples differ from the case of someone who spends Saturday nights at the pub?
5. Why does Taylor think internal obstacles damage the negative theory of liberty? Do you agree with him?