

TRUE FREEDOM

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TEXT: JOHN 8:31-36 NIV

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" 34 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

INTRODUCTION

We owe a debt of gratitude to all who devoted their lives to ensuring our freedom—especially to those who died—paying the ultimate price for the freedom we enjoy today. Achieving freedom wasn't and isn't easy or free, it has always been costly and required precious sacrifice. Unfortunately, there will always be those who will seek to take our freedom by force, or worse, persuade us to blindly hand it over to another under the guise of being a benevolent benefactor only to find ourselves in the grip of a tyrant.

That is why, for those who possess freedom, it must be guarded at all times with great devotion, with eyes wide open, and a resolve to stand fast in the liberty with which we have been blessed.

This is no less true in the realm of Christian faith. Some would pervert the simplicity of the gospel by adding all types of superfluous rules and requirements that satisfy self-appointed religious extremists. Religious rules were never our hope, but rather true righteousness that comes only from and through Jesus Christ. As the apostle Paul wrote, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

What does it mean to be free?

Definition of FREEDOM: the quality or state of being free: as

a: the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action

b: liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another

c: the quality or state of being exempt or released usually from something onerous <freedom from care>

g: boldness of conception or execution

h: unrestricted use <gave him the freedom of their home>

I. FREEDOM IN CHRIST IS TRUE FREEDOM.

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **32** Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

A. DECEPTION IS BONDAGE—FREEDOM COMES THROUGH KNOWING THE TRUTH.

B. THOSE WHO LIVE IN BONDAGE FOLLOW THE MASSES—THOSE WHO ARE FREE FOLLOW THE TRUTH.

II. FREEDOM IN CHRIST IS FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY AND BONDAGE.

John 8:33 They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” **34** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

A. FALSE STANDARDS AND FALSE SECURITY ENSLAVE THOSE WHO HOLD TO THEM.

They trusted in their heritage, but Jesus pointed out that their genealogy could not save them from sin.

B. FREEDOM IN CHRIST IS NOT ABOUT HERITAGE OR RULES—IT’S ABOUT RELATIONSHIP.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

III. FREEDOM IN CHRIST IS ABOUT CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

John 8:35 “Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

A. THE PHARISEES’ COMFORT WAS IN HERITAGE. JESUS OFFERED ASSURANCE THROUGH FAMILY.

B. KNOWING GOD IS WHERE CONFIDENCE BECOMES REAL.

Ephesians 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, **11** according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. **12** In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Conclusion