

TRUE FREEDOM: KNOW YOUR NEW MASTER

MAY 7, 2023

WORSHIP

Come Thou Fount (I Will Sing), Glorious Day, Who You Say I Am, Majesty

WELCOME

When was the last time you felt free from something you knew was harmful, or not helpful to you?

WORD

ROMANS 6:15-23

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. ²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Many wars that have been fought had to do with the issue of freedom. Just like the war within us. Are we going to do what feels good to us or what is good in God's sight? The war is against sin, temptation, negative emotions, and things that prevent us from blooming into the person God wants us to be.

How can we truly understand what freedom is as God intends it for us? How can we experience it and help others experience the same?

Paul already anticipated what people may be thinking in **Romans 6:15**. If you think that you can do whatever you want now that you are no longer under the law but under grace, then you don't understand yet the definition of the Christian life nor true freedom.

People think that true freedom is being able to do whatever you want. That is not true freedom. The amazing divine irony of the Christian life is that for us to be truly free, we have to be under a new master—Jesus! When we come to know Jesus not just as Savior but as Lord and Master of our life, that is when true freedom begins.

Here is the principle: To experience true freedom, Jesus Christ must be the Master and Lord of our lives.

1. FREED FROM SIN, BONDED TO CHRIST (ROMANS 6:16-23)

Our life will be a life of true freedom when we are bonded and joined to a new master. We need to understand that where we are freed from one thing we are bonded to another.

In **Romans 6:16**, to “**present yourselves**” means to put yourself at someone's disposal and a “slave” is someone who submits himself and his will to the will of another. He is bound to another person. Paul is saying that you will take one of two directions in life: either be a slave to sin or a slave of obedience in righteousness. Slavery was a reality in Paul's time. There were some people who actually presented themselves to be bond-slaves to their masters after they have been freed from slavery. When we present ourselves to Jesus, we bow the knee to Him as our Lord and Master. We do it with joy, in worship, with a grateful heart, and with humility. We were freed from sin only to be bound to our new master (**vv.17-18**) but it is a binding that is happy and truly liberating. True freedom is not a matter of doing what you want without restraint, but cultivating the right wants and living in obedience to God's will. In other words, “**freedom results when our wants align with God's will**” (Dr. Sean McDowell).

God gifted us with choice. With Christ's righteousness imputed to us, we are to come and present our bodies as slaves to righteousness resulting in sanctification. But God also reminds us in **Romans 6:19** that sin is a death spiral. If we live in slavery to sin, we will never improve. Lawlessness results to further lawlessness. In life, there is no neutral zone. Paul talked about living right before God (righteousness), living a life that is holy and pleasing to God (sanctification), and eternal life (**vv.20-22**).

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Romans 6:23 mentions “wage” which is something we deserve and in exchange for something we do. When it comes to sin, our wage is death. When we pursue a life of what we think is freedom and become a slave of sin, we sell ourselves so cheaply to sin. In contrast, the gift of God is eternal life. It is priceless because it is purchased by the blood of our new Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

The concept of bond-slaves existed in the Old Testament even among the Israelites (**Deuteronomy 15:12-14**) where the slave chooses to stay and become a permanent part of the master’s household because he loves his master (**Deuteronomy 15:16-17**).

In application, what should be the mindset of a bond-slave of Christ?

1. What does my Master want?
2. What will make my Master happy?
3. How can I best serve my Master and His family (other Christians)?

If Jesus our Master took on the role of a slave (**John 13:14-16**), we should do the same.

2. RELEASED FROM THE LAW, JOINED TO CHRIST (ROMANS 7:1-13)

Paul gave as example a married woman and her husband in **Romans 7:1-2** to show in **vv.4-6** that we died to the law so that we might be joined to another. He explains the difficulty when we are bound to the law and we think that our way to heaven is by trying to obey the law as best as we can. We will never get it perfectly right. We can not experience true freedom without the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:16-18**). The outcome of being filled with the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**) will only come when we know our Master and we live by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul clarifies that the law is a wonderful thing given by God (**Romans 7:7-8**). The law gives sin a name and holds us accountable. We can also confess our sin because we know sin. The law is good; what kills us is sin because the wages of sin is death (**vv.12-13**).

The Bible describes the church as the bride of Christ and Christ as the bridegroom (**Revelation 19:7-8**). We prepare for Christ’s coming through a righteous life.

In application, what should be the mindset of one joined to Christ as Lord?

1. How can I keep myself faithful and pure in mind and body?
2. What can I do to please my Lord?
3. How can I honor Him always in my words and actions?

Jesus is the Best Master. He is compassionate, forgiving, loving, servant, prayerful, all-powerful, all-knowing, source of strength, giver of wisdom, shepherd, king of kings, righteous, just, sovereign, merciful, gracious, healer, prince of peace, faultless, faithful, and true.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you say that Jesus Christ is truly your new Master and Lord? Why or why not?

2. In what specific area of life can you most improve in obeying our Master and Lord?

3. How can you consistently practice being filled with the Holy Spirit?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to know who Jesus Christ is and what He has done, that they will accept Him as their Savior and Lord. Serve God and other people with joy and humility. Share this message on true freedom to your loved ones.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines and Canada.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to end; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.