

## Pride – June 29, 2022

Freedom: What is it?

As Americans ... we wanted independence; free from English rule.

Wanted Gov't by consent of the governed, not the authority of kings.

**Preamble** – Declared our Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” **Liberty = Freedom.**

People equate Freedom w/ **personal independence** — make own decisions; choose own path in life, careers... do whatever we want, whenever we want.

Christians have “**Freedom in Christ**” . . . but this Freedom is different.

Jesus began His ministry by proclaiming: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to **proclaim freedom for the prisoners . . .**” **Luke 4:18**

Set the captives free . . . what does that mean?

Sin is our nature. Adam/Eve gave up freedom – slave to sin.

Jesus – **John 8:34-36** - “Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. **35** A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son **belongs** to it **forever**. **36** So if the **Son [of God] sets you free**, you will be free indeed.”

This Freedom has several components. **Here's 4:**

### **1 – Free to Belong Forever in God's Family.**

We **choose** this freedom... choose to believe in Jesus. We choose truth.

**John 8:31-32** – “If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. **32** Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**Truth:** right/wrong. Heaven/hell.

### **2 – Free to live Forever**

“The wages of sin is death” - **Romans 6:23**. We're all sinners.

But Jesus sets us free from the punishment of death. He paid the price.

We are free from death. We have life Eternal. We cross over.

### 3 – Free from Justifying Ourselves

We don't have to prove ourselves to God. Nothing to earn or make right.

**Jesus did that for us. He made us righteous. Clean.**

**Galations 5**, Paul wrote to say – you don't need to be circumcised.

If we're trying to do things to earn heaven, we've missed grace.

“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.” – **Gal. 5:1**

**Toilet Seat. Israelites – Egypt. Don't forget the price.**

### 4 – Free to live right.

Freedom in Christ isn't a right to do what we want, but free to do what is right.

- We abuse Grace if we think we're free to do whatever... we're forgiven.

**1 Cor. 6:12** – “I have the right to do anything... but not everything is beneficial.” Yes, you can; but not everything is good to do.

- No longer controlled by our nature, but nature of God. **Still control.**

○ What's more free – bang piano keys randomly or follow a teacher?

Teacher helps guide & restrain... so piano used as it was meant to be.

○ Discipline & restraint are necessary for producing beautiful music.

○ **Freedom** – it's submitting to right restraint, not resisting restraint.

Jesus is our Teacher. H.S. our guide to what's right. Voice of Truth

- Each day we submit to Christ, sin loses its power — Christ's power builds up.

○ Chains are gone. No more separation; veil is torn.

- Each day we choose to follow JC, sinful habits, thoughts, attitudes lose control. **Right habits become norm.**

○ Instead of retaliating, we give it to God. Forgive, don't get even.

○ Instead of tit-for-tat, we live under the Golden Rule.

○ Instead of worrying, we know God opens better doors.

○ Instead of defeated, know you're an Overcomer.

○ God lifts us up. God prepares a table... presence/enemies

- **“If you Continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. Then you will know the truth... set you free.”**

○ Knowing Jesus, we are free to be victorious. Not held back.

**Gal. 5:13** - You, my brothers & sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”

**1 Peter 2:16** – “Live like free people, and do not use your freedom as an excuse for doing evil. Instead, be God's servants.”

[Song of the week](#) – “Walking Free” – Micah Tyler