

## Freedom in Christ – What it is, and What it is Not

### Introduction:

1. “Freedom!” This word is filled with meaning to every true American! For “freedom,” many wars have been fought, and countless lives have been sacrificed. “Freedom” is a fundamental, basic, human desire; it is something multitudes consider as being almost sacred.
2. With reference to this nation, the Revolutionary War was fought in order to gain freedom from Great Britain.
  - a. Following that war, on July 4, 1776, Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Paragraph number two of the “Declaration” states: “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.”
  - b. With political freedom in mind, the U.S. Constitution was also written in 1787; it was signed on Sept. 17, 1787; it was ratified on June 21, 1788. Today it is the oldest written Constitution in operation in the world. The Preamble to the Constitution says: “We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the **blessing of liberty** to ourselves and to our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”
    - (1) Interestingly, the first amendment to the Constitution has to do with “**freedom of speech.**”
3. Yes, our “Founding Fathers” were interested in Freedom!
4. But long before anyone ever heard of “our founding fathers,” Jesus Christ came to this earth; he came in order to make freedom possible for every human being! John 8:31,32,36; Rom. 7:24-8:2. And Jesus made the Supreme Sacrifice to make this freedom available; He died upon that cruel cross of Calvary! Heb.2:9,14-15.

### Discussion:

#### I. What is Freedom?

- A. Freedom, the noun.
  1. Translated from *eleutheria*, literally means “manumission from slavery,” Vine.
  2. As it relates to this lesson, we are referring to the slavery of sin!
    - a. John 8:34; Romans 6:16.
  3. Man was created and given dominion over the beasts of the earth, birds of the air, etc, Gen. 1:26, but all too often has allowed sin to have dominion over him! Psalm 119:133; Prov. 5:22.
  4. Multitudes are addicted (enslaved by)
    - a. Pornography, thus violating such scriptures as: Matt. 5:8,28; Phil. 4:8.
    - b. Greed and covetousness, Ex. 20:17; Col. 3:5.
    - c. Drugs, both legal and illegal. I Cor. 9:25; Prov. 23:29-35.
    - d. Other addictions, such as gambling, behavioral, etc.
- B. Free, the verb.
  1. Translated from *eleutheroo*, and means “to make free,” is used of deliverance from:
    - a. Sin, John 8:32,36; Rom. 6:18,22.
    - b. The Law, Gal. 5:1.
    - c. The bondage of corruption, Rom. 8:21.
- C. Freely, the adverb.
  1. Translated from *eleutheroos*, and means:
    - a. Freedom from obligations in general, Rom. 7:3; I Cor. 7:39.
    - b. From bondage or slavery, John 8:33, Gal. 3:28; Eph. 6:8.

#### II. Freedom in Christ is:

- A. Freedom from Sin!
  1. John 8:31-32; Rom. 6:16.
- B. Freedom from the Law of Moses.
  1. First century judaizing teachers tried to influence Christians to subject themselves to the rituals of the law, Acts 15:1-2,6.
    - a. Note Peter’s remarks in Acts 15:7-9.
    - b. Peter’s question in Acts 15:10.
  2. Note the allegory of Hagar and Sarah in Gal. 4:21-31.

- a. **Note** the conclusion in Gal. 5:1. They had been set “free” from the law, and were forbidden to seek justification by that law, Gal. 5:4. Ironically, millions today try to by-pass Jesus Christ saving Gospel and seek justification for their actions by going back to the law “which genders to bondage!”

C. Freedom from the Law of Sin and Death.

1. The theme of the first eight chapters of Romans is set forth in Rom. 1:16-17.
2. The need for the gospel is set forth in Rom. 3:23.
3. Yet no one could be saved by the works of the law, Rom. 3:20.
4. Now note Rom. 8:1-3,.

**III. Freedom in Christ is Not:**

A. Freedom From Christ!

1. Freedom of religion must not be misconstrued to mean freedom from religion.
2. Freedom in Christ is not freedom from Christ. Col. 3:16-17; Col. 2:6; Col. 3:1-2.
3. Those who are freed from sin become the servants of righteousness! Rom. 6:17-18.

B. Freedom From Responsibility!

1. I Peter 2:21; 5:5,6.
2. There are Scriptures which govern the Christian’s obligation in every realm of activity.
  - a. To the civil authorities, Rom. 13:1.
  - b. Husbands, Eph. 5:25.
  - c. Wives, Eph. 5:22.
  - d. Children, Eph. 6:1.
  - e. Servants/employees, Eph 6:5.
  - f. Masters/ employers, Eph. 6:9.
  - g. All Christians in general, I Peter 2:21.

C. License to Sin!

1. Romans 5:20-6:4,11-13; 2 Peter 2:19.

D. Freedom from Restraint, and Accountability!

1. Freedom from restraint leads to anarchy.
2. Note Gal. 5:13,19-21.
3. With freedom comes responsibility and accountability.
  - a. The first amendment to the Constitution grants us freedom of speech. Yet we should not yell “fire” in a crowded building! Nor does it give us the right to use other peoples’ ears as garbage dump for our own verbal filth! Eph. 4:29.
  - b. The second amendment gives us the right to bear arms, but that does not give us the right to enter a public place and start shooting at whoever is in sight! Matt. 22:39-40.

E. Freedom from Servitude!

1. Note Rom. 6:16-19.

F. Freedom from Law itself!

1. Without law, there could be no real freedom! Cf. James 1:25; James 2:12
  - a. How would we fare in the social realm if there were no government, no laws, no rules, no regulations? It would be complete anarchy! Judges 17:6; 21:25; Jer. 10:23.
2. Freed from the law of Moses, but not from the law of Christ!
3. Rom. 4:15; I John 3:4; Gal. 6:1-2.
4. Col. 3:17.

**IV. More Thoughts about Freedom in Christ.**

- A. It is freedom from the agonizing burden of sin, Acts 2:38.
- B. Freedom from the fear of death, Heb. 2:14-15; 2 Tim. 4:16-8.
- C. Freedom to enjoy “*all spiritual blessings,*” Eph. 1:3.
- D. Freedom to enjoy the hope of eternal life, Titus 1:2.

**Conclusion:**

1. Freedom is not free! John 3:16; Matt. 26:28.
2. It comes at a price to the person who wants to be free from sin! Matt. 16:24; Heb. 5:8.
3. Jesus can make you “*free indeed!*” John 8:36.

--Bobby Witherington, June 19, 2016