
Freedom in Christ

Freedom in the world

“The power to do **WHAT** I want, **WHEN** I want, **HOW** I want, to **WHOM** I want.”

RICH

POWERFUL

STRONG

CONTROL

ARROGANCE

FIRST

UNTOUCHABLE

ACCOMPLISHMENT

LIVING LARGE

Ultimate **REWARD** = Temporary, **FLEETING HAPPINESS**

Freedom in Christ

POOR IN SPIRIT

WEAK

SERVANT

SURRENDER

CONFESSION

LAST

PERSECUTED

ACCEPTED

DEATH

Ultimate **REWARD** = Eternal **JOY** here and not yet

Food for Thought

For the week of September 6, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Christopher gave us a definition of freedom that many people hold onto in our culture. What are some ways you see people around you living out this definition?

Can you think of any consequences people experience from defining freedom this way?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend Christopher talked about the freedom we have in Christ and what it takes to experience that freedom. How do the following verses expand on what freedom in Christ means, and the responsibility that comes with it?

John 8:31-36 New International Version (NIV)

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

³³They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Galatians 5:1 New International Version (NIV)

5 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 5:13-15 New International Version (NIV)

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Romans 6:15-23 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

¹⁹I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Which of the above verses is most helpful for you when it comes to consistently experiencing freedom?

2. We also heard in this weekend's sermon how the early church experienced a lot of confusion over whether Gentiles who became Christians had to be circumcised and follow the Old Testament Jewish laws. In Galatians 2:11-16, we read about Paul defending the Gentile Christians' freedom from these requirements. After reading the story, answer the questions below.

Galatians 2:11-16 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹ When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

¹⁵ "We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

What surprises you or confuses you in this story?

What do you think Paul, Cephas (Peter) and Barnabas were feeling before and after Paul spoke up?

What was happening that was so important that Paul felt compelled to speak up?

What is the significance of this incident for us today even though we don't struggle with the issue of following the Old Testament laws?



Sign-ups are going on now!

Life Groups are our small group ministry and the key to getting connected at North Coast Church. We have groups for everyone from young adults to senior adults. Especially in this season, Life Groups have never been more important - community is connection! That's why this year we have options for groups that will meet in person (following current guidelines), as well as groups that will meet online, and even some that will do a hybrid of both! To start checking out the options, visit northcoastchurch.com/groups.

Don't delay, groups will fill fast.