



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

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Freedom From Slavery

Galatians 5:1
For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

We find freedom... from our slavery to Christ.
We want freedom from... our slavery to all else.

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ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

3 Themes to Explore:

1. How do we reconcile the idea of slavery in scripture with a loving God?
2. What does it mean for us to see ourselves as slaves of Christ?
3. What are the implications for how we read chapter 13 of Romans as slaves of Christ?

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Freedom From Slavery

1st Theme: Understanding the relationship of a loving God and the idea of slavery in scripture.

- A. The Socioeconomic lens
 1. Conception, Capture, Choice
 2. Exodus 21:5-6
- B. The Political lens
- C. The Humanitarian lens
 1. Deuteronomy 15:12b-14
 2. Philemon 1:8-12,16



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

The Socioeconomic Lens

Exodus 21:5-6
5 But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' 6 then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.

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ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

The Political Lens

-"Slavery had become a well traveled road to Roman citizenship."
-Around 5 B.C. Rome's Population of 870,000 had recorded that 500,000 were "freedmen".
-87% of Rome consisted of current or freed slaves with foreign names.
-"A worthy slave could expect his freedom in about seven years." - Cicero
-"Many slaves entered Rome as slaves but were soon freed." - Philo
-"Many times the former slave became wealthier than his patron."

From Zondervan Biblical Encyclopedia / Editor: Merril Tenny



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

The Humanitarian Lens

Deuteronomy 15:12b-14
he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. 13 And when you let him go free from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed. 14 You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. As the Lord your God has blessed you, you shall give to him.



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

The Humanitarian Lens

Philemon 1:8-12, 16
8 Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, 9 yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— 10 I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus,[t] whose father I became in my imprisonment. 11 (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) 12 I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ...
16 no longer as a bondservant[c] but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

2nd Theme: Understanding What it mean for us to see ourselves as slaves of Christ?

A. Review

B. We are slaves to the greatest King who ever ruled.
-We live in His Victorious Reign.

C. We are slaves to the greatest Servant who ever lived.
-We live in His Loving Example.

D. We are slaves to the greatest Father who interrupts our plea to become slaves.
-We live in His Extravagant Grace.



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Freedom From Slavery

A. Review

a slave was bought

a slave was ruled

a slave was owned

a slave must surrender



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

B. We are slaves to the greatest King who ever ruled.
[We live in His Victorious Reign]

Isaiah 9:6-7

Colossians 1:15-20



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

Isaiah 9

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon[d] his shoulder,
and his name shall be called[e]

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

Colossians 1:15-20
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by[f] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

C. We are slaves to the **greatest Servant** who ever lived.
[We live in His Loving Example]

Psalm 23:5

John 13:34-35



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

Psalm 23:5
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

John 13:34-35
34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

D. We are slaves to the greatest Father who interrupts our plea to become slaves.
[We live in His Extravagant Grace]

Luke 15:17-24



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

Luke 15:17-24
17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." [c] 22 But the father said to his servants, [d] 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

3rd Theme: Understanding What the implications are for how we read chapter 13 of Romans as slaves of Christ?

1. As a slave of Christ...
We live in PEACE in our world
2. As a slave of Christ...
We live in LOVE with one another and with God
3. As a slave of Christ...
We live AWAKENED to the mission of His Grace and Gospel



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Freedom From Slavery

1. As a slave of Christ... We live in PEACE in our world

Romans 13:1
Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.



ROMANS

Freedom From Slavery

2. As a slave of Christ... We live in LOVE with one another and with God

Romans 13:7-8
7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.
8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.



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Freedom From Slavery

3. As a slave of Christ... We live AWAKENED to the mission of His Grace and Gospel

Romans 13:11
11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.
