

“FREEDOM IN CHRIST”

INTRODUCTION:

1. Everyone desires freedom! People in Jesus' time certainly did. (Tired of Roman oppression & Jewish hypocrisy)
2. **Luke 4:14-21** A prophecy with a double meaning. (Physical & Spiritual)
3. There are **FOUR** general categories of freedom discussed in the NT!

FREEDOM AS IT RELATES TO SOCIAL CLASS

1. Three main social classes in 1st Century Rome:
 - a) **Free Man:** A recognized free independent citizen of Rome.
 - b) **Slave:** Born in slavery or sold into slavery due to debt/financial obligations.
 - c) **Freedman:** Someone who either paid for or was sponsored for freedom.
2. Scriptures:
 - a) **Ephesians 6:5-8** Slaves obey, wholeheartedly.
 - b) **Colossians 3:11 & Galatians 3:28** No “class” in Christ!
 - c) **1 Corinthians 7:20-22** Slave, freedman, free man!
3. Jesus never promised freedom from slavery. This type of freedom has no bearing on salvation!

FREEDOM FROM SIN

1. This is the freedom we are most familiar with! The crucifixion, communion, baptism all speak of this freedom!
2. **Romans 6** is all about freedom from sin! **Revelation 1:4-6** “Freed us from our sins by his blood”

FREEDOM FROM THE LAW

1. Many places to grasp Freedom from Law, we will look in **Galatians!**
 - a) **1:6-10** Judaizers, Christ not enough we must have the Law as well!
 - b) **2:3-5** Circumcision rejected!
 - c) **2:11-16** Peter's apostasy, rejection of the law.
 - d) **3:10-14** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law!
 - e) **5:1-6** Christ set us free!
 - f) **6:11-16** New creation is what counts!
2. We are not hung up on Jewish practices, but we have sometimes made our own “rules”:
 - a) Attend two weeks. Fill out sin list. Complete the study series. Overused accountability, stringent dating rules, attendance rules, discipleship rules etc.
3. Why: Maintain a standard, growth, minimize “fall away's”! Good goal, but rules can't accomplish it!
4. **Colossians 2:20-23!!!**

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

1. Freedom means I have a choice! God has given us the freedom to choose how we live!
2. With freedom comes responsibility!
 - a) **1 Corinthians 8:9** “does not become a stumbling block to the weak”
 - b) **1 Corinthians 9:19-23** Paul uses his freedom to be a slave for the Gospel!
 - c) **Galatians 5:13** Don't use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature! “serve” = “slaves” to one another!
 - d) **1 Peter 2:13-17** Don't use “freedom” as a cover for evil! “serve = bond slave”!

HOW WILL YOU USE YOUR FREEDOM?

1. **Attendance:** How committed am I? **Dating:** who, how/where? **Social activities:** clubs, entertainment, drinking?
2. **Giving:** Sacrificial? Greed, materialism? Treasures for self or heaven? **Discipling:** Involved? Why? Why not?
3. **Serving:** Needs of the body? Kingdom Kids? Hospitality?

CLOSING:

1. *Freedom in Christ* does not mean *Freedom from Christ!*
2. **WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR FREEDOM?**
3. **TITUS 2:11-14** *God's vision of what Freedom produces!!!*