

# The Meaning of Freedom in Christ

## What is Freedom in Christ?

- The Bible talks a lot about being set free in Christ (John 8:36; Acts 13:38-39; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:1)
- But what is freedom in Christ?
  - It's a double freedom
    - Free from being required to keep God's Law (Galatians 2:3-5, 5:1, 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16)
    - Free from the enslaving power of sin (John 8:34-36; Romans 6:6, Romans 6:17-18, 6:22)
  - It is specifically both together, not just one
    - In fact, you can't really have just one without the other. Because freedom in Christ means both of these, you either have both or you have neither. There's no such thing as having one without the other
    - Christ is the one who sets us free, and He either set you free from both or He hasn't set you free at all (Romans 6:14)
  - The world sees freedom from the Law and freedom from sin as opposite things, but God sees them as two sides of the same coin. Two aspects of the same freedom, which is your freedom in Christ

## Implications

- Of being free from the requirement to keep the law
  - We don't have to keep the law to avoid condemnation (Romans 8:1)
  - We don't have to keep the law to have God's favor (Romans 8:5)
    - Even if we fail in our obedience, He will still greatly love us
    - Even when we fail in our obedience, He still has delight in us
  - We don't have to keep the law to have eternal life (Romans 6:23)
- Of being free from the enslaving power of sin
  - We can now submit to God (Romans 6:17)
  - Being freed from sin doesn't mean we never get trapped in a certain sin (Hebrews 12:1 NASB)
  - We get to submit to God (submitting to God is a privilege) (1 John 5:3)
    - The privilege that it is
      - There are many reasons why keeping God's commandments is a privilege
        - Reward
        - Honor
        - Joy
        - Good relationships
        - Etc.
- Just because we're free from the requirement to keep God's Law doesn't mean His law has no value or that we should ignore it (Matthew 5:17-19)

## Application

- Living as those who are free from the law
  - Having confidence and rest
    - Being confident that you won't be punished and not striving to escape punishment
      - Romans 8:1; 1 John 4:18
    - Being confident in God's love and not striving to secure it
      - God already loves you and there's nothing you can do that would make Him love you any more or any less
    - Being confident that you're worth as a person doesn't come from keeping the law or from how well you obey God
      - God's love for us and delight in us is not dependent on us keeping the law, which means are worth is not dependent on keeping the law
  - Living as those who are free from sin
    - Forsaking sin and seeking to obey God (Romans 6:12-13)
      - Just cause we're free from sin doesn't mean that we don't have to make a choice to pursue God
    - Seeking to love others (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8)
      - As those who have been freed from sin, seeking to love others should be our way of life. It should be our aim every single day
    - Rejoicing in obedience
      - Two reasons to rejoice in our obedience
        - Because it's good for us
        - Because our wills have been set free and our submission is genuine, which leads to joy rather than bitterness
          - It's hard to enjoy obeying when you don't really want to or when you're not really submitted
          - But once God has changed our hearts, we can really enjoy obeying God