

“Free in Christ” – What Does It Mean?

Introduction:

- A. “Free” and “freedom” are used in a variety of different contexts throughout the New Testament.
- B. Our calling? To harmonize our understanding of “free” and “freedom” with God’s revelation.
- C. How can “the faith,” personal faith, Christian “freedom” and flexibility come together to glorify God?

I. “For freedom Christ has set us free...” (*Gal 5:1*)

- A. What is this freedom available through Jesus Christ?
 - 1. An _____ from the bondage of sin (*Rom 6:17-18*).
 - 2. The _____ of an accusing conscience (*Heb 10:19-22*).
 - 3. Perfect _____ from the impending wrath of God (*1 Thes 1:9-10*).
 - 4. _____ from the fear of death and the power of the devil (*Heb 2:14-15*).
- B. All true. But contextually, Paul has something very specific in mind.
 - 1. The new and better covenant of Jesus Christ (*4:21-31*).
 - 2. “Why then the law?” (*3:19*)
 - a. To _____ sin (*Rom 7:7; 3:20; 7:13*).
 - b. To _____ sin (*1 Tim 1:8-11*).
 - c. To serve as a _____ until Christ came (*3:19-29*).
 - 3. The folly of looking to ordinances of the old law like circumcision for justification (*5:2-12*).
 - 4. That racial, cultural and historical diversity might not trump unifying conduct (*5:13-26*).

II. The freedom of Christians has nothing to do with being independent of God or God’s law

- A. The law of _____ (*Rom 3:21-31*) vs. the law of works that will justify no human being.
- B. The law of the _____ of life (*Rom 8:1-4*) vs. the law of sin and death.
- C. The law of _____ (*1 Cor 9:19-23*) vs. the law given exclusively to the Jews through Moses.
- D. The law of _____ (*James 1:19-25*) vs. the law that imprisons and holds captive.

Conclusion:

- A. There is one more instance of “freedom” in the New Testament (*2 Pet 2:17-22*).
- B. How can we come to be recognized as forgiven heirs of God? (*Rom 6:17-18, 1-4*).