

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

Ephesians 5:1 Jeff Schreve

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Founding Fathers, July 4, 1776





*It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.
Galatians 5:1*

Are you standing firm in the freedom you have in Jesus?

1. Many people lose their freedom to legalism.

*Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.
Galatians 5:2-4*

A. Christianity is based on grace, not law.

*For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written,
"CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS
WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."
Galatians 3:10*

*But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works,
otherwise grace is no longer grace. Romans 11:6*

B. God cares about an inner relationship, not outer rules.

*"Circumcise yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins
of your heart ..." Jeremiah 4:4*

C. You will never find love, joy, and peace in rule keeping.



2. Many people lose their freedom to license.



*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
Galatians 5:13*

A. No Christian is free to sin.

Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. 1 Peter 2:16

B. Every Christian is set free from sin.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Romans 6:1-2

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. Romans 6:14

C. Every Christian still struggles with the pull of sin.

... knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Romans 6:6-7

3. All Christians can stand firm and enjoy freedom in Christ.

A. You can choose to live under grace.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16

B. You can choose to walk by the Spirit.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Galatians 5:16-18

Truth is not what you think or feel, it is what God says!