

FREEDOM

July 5, 2026

1. Yesterday we celebrated Independence Day. On July 4, 1776,
2. When our forefathers declared their independence from Great Britain.
 - The token of Freedom has become a treasured ideology in America ever since
 - And not just in America
 - For people all around the world
3. When we speak of freedom today, we usually think of politics
 - Especially for those who are living under the oppressive rule
 - of dictators
 - where freedom is not available
 - to the people living in these countries
4. But there is a freedom that cannot be achieved through politics
 - That is not dependent upon where you live
 - Or controlled by the people you surround yourself with
5. It's a freedom that the Bible talks about

Galatians 5:1

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

- a. The world **doesn't** think
 - i. when a person becomes a Christian
 - ii. that they are truly free
 - b. Rather - the world thinks
 - i. our lives are controlled by a bunch of rules
 - ii. "you cannot do that" **rules**
 - c. However, The Bible makes it clear that
 - i. we ARE called to FREEDOM!
1. WHAT IS FREEDOM?
 - a. In Greek philosophy Plato taught that
 - b. freedom was defined as "*to be at one's own disposal.*"
 - c. THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO A SLAVE.

2. The **Dictionary** defines Freedom as,
 - a. *“a state in which somebody is able to act and live*
 - b. *as he or she chooses,*
 - c. *without being subject to*
 - d. *any undue restraints or restrictions”*
3. The God has offered us the gift of freedom,
 - a. BUT this freedom is **not**
 - b. an absence of responsibility.
4. Some think that freedom means
 - a. that you can do what you want,
 - b. but that is not freedom.
5. Our gift authorizes believers to lay claim to their freedom,
 - a. and It challenges believers
 - b. to use their freedom responsibly.
6. Paul begins by explaining our calling:
 - a. we are called to (freedom) liberty.
 - b. The Christian is a free man.
7. Here, today we will explore that FREEDOM the Bible talks about
 - a. That a Christian has
 - b. But the world **doesn't** have

1. FREEDOM FROM THE LAW

Rom 8:1-4

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so, he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.”

- a. It calls **the law** powerless and weak”.
- b. The Law still **stood in the way** between us and God.
- c. REASON: in all of history **not** one person could keep the **whole** Law.
 - i. Except Jesus.
 - ii. Jesus alone is the **only one**

- 1) Who kept the Law perfectly
- d. That's where the relationship starts,
 - i. because **without** Jesus
 - ii. we all have broken the commandments of God.
- e. You don't have to be Jewish to be under the Law
 - i. That's a **misnomer**

Romans 2:12–16

“All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.”

- ii. If you are Jewish, you have the Old Testament Law
- iii. If you are a Gentile (non-Jew) you have your conscience
- f. Everybody falls into this category
 - i. The Law is the standard of morality
 - ii. Instituted by God
 - iii. And all will be held accountable to that Law
- g. This is where Jesus steps in:

Ephesians 2:14–15

“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.”

Hebrews 9:15

“For this reason, Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.”

2. FREEDOM FROM THE JUDGMENT OF SIN

- a. the Bible says:

Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

- i. It's **not** a question of “if we sin”
- ii. But rather “when we sin”

Romans 8:5–11

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

- a. Those who do **not** have the Spirit of Christ
 - i. (Receive when baptized)
- b. Will be judged – Hostile to God
 - i. Bad place to be!
- c. But for the Christian
 - i. The standards have changed
 - ii. We have a different standing with God
- d. So **how does sin affect us.**
 - i. For many, the guilt of sin is paralyzing
 - ii. Many feel like they are constantly in the “Dog House”
 - iii. “I’ll never be good enough!”

1John 1:8-10

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins; he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned; we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”

- a. We all sin (Christian and Non-Christian alike)
 - i. but if we walk in the light,
 - ii. and if we confess our sin,
 - iii. Christ’s blood cleanses us from that sin.
- b. **1 John** is saying,
 - i. don’t pretend or think that you **don’t** sin,
 - ii. but equally, **don’t** convince yourself **sin doesn’t matter.**
 - 1) It needs to be dealt with,
 - 2) brought to Christ

3) and it need not be a burden

ILLUSTRATION:

- a. One of the **greatest fears** for people who want to be baptized into Christ is
- i. they're afraid that after becoming Christians,
 - ii. they'll **mess up** and sin again
 - iii. and it will all be for **naught**.
 - iv. This is a real stumbling block for many people.
- b. Here is a simple way to understand what Christianity is all about.

Here's the deal:

*"The more you walk with Jesus,
the less you're going to sin."*

Ask them if they've ever skated? (they will probably say - YES)

Did they ever "fall down"? (yeah a lot)

If they skated again today, would they fall down as much as they use to? (no)

Then bring up professional ice skaters.

Do they ever fall down?

Yeah, but a whole lot less than you or I would if we tried those stunts.

Why don't they fall down as much as we do?

Because they've spent more time on their skates than we have.

In fact, they've spent so much time on their skates that's it's almost like walking for them.
But they still fall down – once in a while.

- John tells us he wrote his letter so we wouldn't sin.
- The more we walk with Jesus
 - the less we're going to fall into sin.
- But if we do sin...
 - we have an advocate with the Father –
 - Jesus
- You see, all **this starts** when we become Christians.

2 Corinthians 5:21

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Romans 8:1-2

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”

3. FREEDOM FROM OUR PAST

ILLUSTRATION

In 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was proclaimed in America. The word spread from Capitol Hill down into the valleys of Virginia, and the Carolinas, and even into the plantations of Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama. The headlines read, 'Slavery Legally Abolished!' However, the greater majority of slaves, in the South, went right on living as though there had been no emancipation. They went on living like they had never been set free. In fact, when one Alabama slave was asked what he thought of the Great Emancipator, whose proclamation had gone into effect, he replied "I don't know nothing about Abraham Lincoln except they say he set us free. And, I don't know nothing about that neither." How tragic. A war was being fought. A document had been signed. Slaves were legally set free.

Yet most continued to live out their years without knowing anything about it. They had chosen to remain slaves, though they were legally free. Even though emancipated, they kept serving the same master.

ILLUSTRATION 2

Have you ever seen an elephant at a circus? If you notice, when they are not performing they keep them tied up. They tie a rope around one of their legs, and secure the rope with a stake. But if you have ever looked at the rope, it seems that it would be simple for the elephant to break it. And the stake is not hard to pull up. If a person can do it easily, how simple should it be for the elephant? Yet the elephant never tries.

Here is how that happens. When the elephant is young, the trainer uses a strong chain around the elephant's leg to restrain it. The young elephant pulls against the chain again and again, but to no avail. Eventually the elephant gives up. Once that happens, the trainer can replace the heavy chain with a simple rope, but the elephant doesn't even bother to test its strength. The elephant's spirit has been broken and it has been enslaved.

- a. We are slaves to our bad habits.
- b. Slaves to our sins
- c. Daily practice year after year
- d. A normal part of life
 - i. has made them hard to break.
 - ii. They are easy to get into, but hard to get out of.
 - 1) They've tied us up for years
 - 2) Bad habits are comfortable beds.
- e. **But here's the Reality**

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.”

Ephesians 4:20–24

“You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

- a. When we become Christians
- b. We are given something supernatural
- c. Something that those in the world who are not Christian do not have
- d. Something that empowers us to dramatically change

Romans 8:11

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

Ephesians 1:18–20

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms”

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

- e. We have been given **supernatural power to change**
 - i. I can’t explain it
 - ii. It just is

4. FREEDOM FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH

- a. The reality is that we all will one day
 - i. pass from this life to the next.
- b. It’s **not** a favorite topic to talk about
- c. In fact, most people feel **uncomfortable** when bringing it up.
- d. Bible addresses this **fear of the unknown**
 - i. And sheds light on the comforting solution to that fear
 - ii. Jesus sharing our humanity
 - iii. And undergoing death (like we all will experience one day)
 - iv. Triumphed over death by his resurrection

v. We now have someone who has **been to the other side**

1) Who **returned** with a comforting message

e. For the Christian, we have **nothing** to **fear**

f. We just **need to** keep our **eyes fixed** on Jesus

Hebrews 2:14–15

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

John 14:1–3

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

There is **nothing** to fear in death

- a. If you are in right standing with God
- b. Your sins have been forgiven
- c. You possess the Holy Spirit
- d. Living the kind of life a Christian is called to
 - a. Avoiding Sin
 - b. And sinful influences
 - c. Repenting and confessing
- a. Just taking responsibility for your life
 - i. Because with freedom comes responsibility

John 8:31–32

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- 1. Freedom is a beautiful thing
- 2. It’s something to be cherished
 - a. In whatever form it comes in
- 1. But there is one thing we must be aware of
- 2. It doesn’t come free
- 3. There is always a price to pay for freedom
- 4. There was a price to pay for our national freedom

ILLUSTRATION - CLOSING

- Our Declaration of Independence was signed on July 2 and adopted in the Congress on July 4, 1776.
- The declaration of independence set free the 13 colonies of America from its rule by Great Britain.
- But there was a price that was paid by those original signers of the Declaration

Richard Stockton a Quaker from New Jersey was one of the 56 signers of that declaration. Stockton in 1758 helped to construct the Quaker Meeting house near his home Morven. Stockton was a prominent Lawyer and Landowner until the day that he signed that declaration. The English army routed him and his family from their home and he was imprisoned as a traitor to the crown. As a result of his harsh treatment, his health was broken. After his imprisonment he returned to the burned and sacked remnants of Morven and died their four years later at the age of 51.

His is only one of the stories of these 56 men- many others tell the same story of men who gave their life for freedom.

Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence . . .

- 5 were captured by the British and tortured before they died.
- 12 had their homes ransacked and burned.
- 2 lost their sons in the war.
- 9 either died from war wounds or from hardships suffered in the war.
- That's exactly ½ of the original signers

1. FREEDOM MY FRIENDS IS NEVER FREE.

2. THAT PRICE WAS PAID BY JESUS DYING ON THE CROSS.

1 Peter 1:18–20

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”