

Freedom that Lasts

July 5th, 2026

John 8:36 (NLT) So, if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

During this time in his ministry Jesus has been teaching publicly and people began to believe in Him. To those professing to be his followers Jesus says:

“You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. ³² And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32 (NLT)

The crowd objected because they thought Jesus was talking about political and national freedom.

“But we are descendants of Abraham,” they said. “We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, ‘You will be set free’?” John 8:33 (NLT)

Ironically, they had been enslaved by Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece and at this time of they were under Roman rule.

Jesus makes clear that he isn’t talking about political, economic, social or national independence.

He is talking about something much deeper; spiritual freedom.

Matthew 8:34 (NLT) “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.”

Most people don’t think they are slaves to anything. We say, ‘I can quit anytime I want.’ But the truth is that addiction, lust, anger, bitterness and pride have a way of controlling our lives.

The greatest threat to freedom has never been on the outside of us, it has always been inside of us. The sinful heart is the greatest tyrant, and only King Jesus can set it free.

That’s why Jesus declared, *“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”*

Introduction: This year, our nation celebrates its 250th birthday.

Some people are celebrating the freedom of our nation, while others are questioning the idea that America has truly lived up to its promise of freedom for all.

That’s because the word freedom means different things to different people.

- To some, it means Political liberty.
- For others, it's financial independence.
- Some see freedom as the right to make their own choices without accountability.

As followers of Christ, regardless of whether we celebrate or question the freedom of our nation we need to understand that:

- A nation can grant civil liberties but only Jesus can give spiritual liberty.
- A nation can protect our rights but only Jesus can declare us righteous before God.
- A nation can declare independence from the tyranny of man, but only Jesus can free us from the tyranny of sin, shame and guilt.

So, the ultimate question today is not, "is our nation truly free", we need to answer, "Am I truly free in Christ?"

I thank God for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. But even in the freest nations people still battle anxiety, addiction, depression, broken relationships and guilt.

Political freedom cannot cure spiritual bondage.

Only Christ can set people free from spiritual bondage, which is the root cause of the greed, selfishness, pride, and brokenness that lead people to exploit others in pursuit of their own personal agendas.

The declaration of independence changed a nation. But the cross changes the heart.

Because of Christ the Father has freed from... Satan's Dominion

Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT) For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

To be rescued means we were powerless to save ourselves. Jesus said we were slaves to sin, captive to its power and control, enslaved to an enemy whose desire was not our good but our destruction.

Ephesians 2:2 (NLT) You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

But God, in His mercy, rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son. Through Him we have been redeemed, our freedom has been purchased, and the debt of our sin has been completely forgiven.

How does this change everything for us? Because of what Christ did...

- We are no longer ruled by sin.

Romans 6:14 (NLT) Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

- We are no longer defined by our past. We have a new identity in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

- We are no longer burdened by guilt and shame. Our sin debt has been cancelled by Christ.

Colossians 2:14 (NLT) He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

- We are no longer under judgement. We have peace with God through Christ.

Romans 5:1 (NLT) Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

- We no longer live for ourselves; we now live for the king who loved us and gave His life for us.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT) He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

Freedom in Christ is more than being released from the bondage of sin; it is the privilege of belonging to Christ and living under His gracious rule as our King.

Ephesians 1:6-7 (NLT) So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Our New Reality

Because of what Christ has done...

- We have a new King.
- We have a new identity.
- We have a new family.
- We have a new future.

Conclusion

Perhaps today you enjoy many freedoms, yet you still carry chains in your heart. Maybe they are guilt, fear, anxiety, sin, or shame. Jesus did not come merely to improve your life; He came to set you truly free.

True freedom is not found in a political system, a philosophy, or human effort. It is found in a Person: Jesus Christ.

And today, that freedom is available to everyone who places their faith in Him.

"So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36 (ESV)