

TRUE FREEDOM

JOHN 8:31-38

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The Christian can live as free because the Christian is free.

Freedom is basically the opposite of having something or someone control you.

To those living in bondage, Jesus offers freedom!

"...our generation is confused as to the nature of true freedom. No matter how often we experience liberation from constraints, limitations, and oppression, we still find ourselves falling into new forms of bondage. We get free from boredom, and fall into slavery to distraction. We pursue liberty from prohibitions, and fall into bondage to addictions. We escape repression, and become enslaved to lust. We are released from isolation, and fall captive to peer pressure and the power of the online mob. We pursue liberty from the constraints upon our natures, and fall into bondage to our untrained passions. We successfully break out of 1984, only to find ourselves in Brave New World."¹

John 8:31–38

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

*...In an age where freedom is understood as merely being **freedom from**: from oppression, from constraint, or whatever. This aspect of liberation, as wonderful as it is, is only half the deal. In the Scriptures, more emphasis is placed on the **freedom for**: for worship, for flourishing, for growth in obedience and joy and glory. Human beings are not designed to be free from all constraints, slaves to nothing but our own passions, triumphantly enthroned as our own masters, even our own gods. **Everybody serves somebody. So the point of the exodus is not just for Israel to find deliverance from serving the old master. It is for them to find delight in serving the new one.**²*

Application

1. True freedom can only come when you are face to face with it.
 - Freedom comes by listening to God
 - What lie do you need to change for the truth?

2. True Freedom is found, understood, realized and offered through Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:1

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

¹Alastair J. Roberts and Andrew Wilson, *Echoes of Exodus: Tracing Themes of Redemption through Scripture* (Illinois: Crossway, 2018), 14.

²*Echoes of Exodus*, 44.