

“Christian Freedom”

John 8:31-36

8/22/21

Discussion Guide

Read the passage slowly and meditate on it. What phrase(s) stand out to you? Put yourself in the crowd that day. What thoughts would be running through your mind? What questions would you ask Jesus?

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³ They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:31-36

1. When you think of the word "freedom" what comes to mind? What is freedom? What does our culture say freedom is? How does our culture and Christianity differ when it comes to freedom?
2. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (vs. 36) What has Christ set you free from in your life? Give one or two examples.
3. Is spiritual freedom really better, more fundamental to life than political freedom? If so, share how and give examples.
4. What do people live for; what drives them? What used to drive you before you get up your personal autonomy to follow Jesus?
5. Share examples of how living for anything but Jesus has the power to enslave us and drive us into the ground.
6. React to the statement: "Freedom is not having any master but having the right master."

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7. Respond to this cultural myth concerning freedom: “If you experience an inner pull or attraction to something that pull is who you are, it is part of your identity and you should not deny who you really are. You should pursue, express and embrace whatever you feel pulled toward.” How harmful is this myth?
8. What conflicting inner pulls do you or have you experienced? What helps you gain clarity as to which attractions or urges you should give into and which ones should be denied?
9. What was your life like when you were a slave to an urge or a purpose you were living for and what’s it like being a son/daughter of God?
10. Has God set you free from your past or does your conscience still try haunt and taunt you? How do we forgive ourselves and silence a nagging and guilt-producing conscience?
11. The conscience plays an important role in our lives! What is that role? At the same time, Satan can use our conscience just like he can use our mind and emotions against us. Has that ever happened to you?
12. Read the verses below and respond to them. Have you experienced them to be true in your life?

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.” Titus 2:11-12

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Galatians 5:19-21

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t do what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us

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desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires...the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”
Galatians 5:16-17,
22-23.

13. Are you a child of God? Have you experienced what John states at the beginning of his Gospel?

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”
John 1:12-13