

# An Indeed Freedom

Pastor Steve Berger July 5, 2015

## An Indeed Freedom

**Background** — Jesus is in the midst of a serious debate with the religious leaders of the day, the Pharisees. The conversation gets extremely heated where they call Jesus a “son of fornication,” “demon-possessed Samaritan,” and Jesus calls them “sons of their father, the devil.” Before it gets that heated, **Jesus talks to the Jews who believed about the Freedom He came to give people.**

- **John 8:31-36**
  - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

## How Spiritual Freedom Works

### I. Abide in the Word

- **the word — John 1:1,14**
  - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- **abide**
  - stay in a place of **hearing, believing, and obeying** the word
  - you can't *just* hear, or hear *and* believe, you must hear, believe *and* obey the word if you want to abide in Jesus!
- **John 15:4-5**
  - Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

**When we abide in Jesus**, staying place of hearing, believing, and obeying the word... **He'll abide in us**, *Christ in us the hope of glory*, allows us to do all things He requires of us... **we'll bear much fruit**, *we'll enjoy a spiritually productive life, help others to*. **No abiding**, no spiritual life, vitality, only withering and burning. **We must abide in word by hearing, believing and obeying it!**

### II. Then you'll know the truth

- **the truth — John 14:6**
  - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- **know**
  - not mere intellect... personal, resolute, spiritual experience with Jesus Himself

***Being a follower of Jesus** isn't merely intellectually understanding and following some principles, it's personally knowing the Lover and Savior of your soul, and growing in that relationship by abiding in Him, and He, you!*

**Hearing, believing, and obeying the word  
allows you to bear much fruit and personally experience the truth –  
Jesus Himself**

***Sobering** – doing Christian principles without abiding in Jesus is just dead religion!*

### III. Truth will make you free

***Important** – truth doesn't make you free, it's the truth you KNOW, that makes you free – that's why you must abide in the word, that's how you know truth!*

- **free from what**
  - sin, its Power and its Penalty, for those who abide in the word and know the truth
- **Romans 6:14-18**

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
- **power**
  - **sin shall not have dominion** or power over you because of God's grace, His power on your life, when you abide and know the truth.
  - God's grace and power is infinitely greater than sin's power
  - sin doesn't have dominion over the word-abiding, truth-knowing follower of Jesus.
  - it just doesn't
- **past tense**
  - were slaves of sin, were delivered, having been set free from sin
  - done deal, start appropriating that in your life, freedom happens!
- **penalty**
  - sin leads to death, eternal, spiritual separation from God

**By abiding in the word, knowing the truth,  
you can be set free from the power and penalty of sin!**

- **promise**
  - **Romans 6:22**
    - But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life

***Set free now**, slave of God now, holy life now, everlasting life later, Hallelujah!*

***Summary** – you can **abide in the word** by hearing, believing and obeying the word, then you'll personally experience and **know the truth** of Jesus and then you can be **set free** from sin's power and penalty, you can **live a holy life now** and get **everlasting life later!** **That is freedom!***

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## Pharisees' response

*"We're Abraham's descendants, "never been in bondage to anyone."*

- **really?**
  - Egypt, Babylon, and Rome at that time — no bondage ever?
- **our pride**
  - keeps us from seeing and admitting our own lost, sinful, broken, bound condition
  - Pharisees in bondage, claiming they've never been in bondage
  - as if some genealogical, natural or national birthright can make you spiritually free
- **John 3:3**
  - You must be born again!

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## Jesus himself, the word, the truth, is mankind's only hope of freedom!

- **Luke 4:18-19**

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

### I. Freedom for all types of sinners — on display — such were some of you

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**
  - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.
- **such were some of you**
  - past tense, something happened that forever altered the trajectory of their lives
- **made free!**
  - washed, sanctified, justified by Jesus and the Spirit of God
- **free indeed**
  - who the Son sets free is free indeed, verse 36
- **the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ**
  - frees us from our sinful past
  - empowers our victorious present
  - guarantees our glorious future!
  - anything less than that isn't the gospel!
- **tired of the gospel being minimized**
  - "can't change from past, can't have power in present, heavenly future isn't that great"...
  - no wonder this world is going to hell in a handbasket
  - the church has preached an impotent, minimized gospel

**You can abide in the word, know the truth,  
and be set free from whatever sin is going on in your life.**

## AN INDEED FREEDOM!

### II. Freedom's first steps

- **Mark 1:15**
  - “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”
- **John 1:12**
  - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
- **Matthew 10:32-33**
  - “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

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### Discussion Questions

The Sermon Discussion Questions are being provided to the Life Groups by Jimmy Harris, Life Group Pastor. If you are not in a Life Group and would like to receive copies of the Sermon Discussion Questions, please contact Pastor Jimmy: jimmy@gracechapel.net.

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We pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.  
Please come join our House of Prayer, Tuesday, July 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.