

CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

The Spirit of the Lord gives liberty to His children.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ What is Christian Freedom? Freedom *from* what? Freedom *to do* what? Freedom *to be* what? What kind of freedom is this?
- ❖ Romans 8:1-2 starts to give us some answers. These two verses bring us some powerfully good news: "There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus." We are free from the condemnation of God for our sins, and from the penalty and punishment for those sins!
- ❖ But wait, there's more! The "law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **has made me free from the law of sin and death.**" So...what does this mean?
- ❖ When we sin, we die. We separate ourselves from God, who is, literally, Life. As humans, we *will* sin and as a result we will experience physical and spiritual death. But the Spirit of Life which is in Jesus frees us from that law, from the inevitability of sin and death.
- ❖ Through the power of the Spirit of Life living within us, desire to sin does not have dominion or rulership over us any more. And when we do sin, it *does not* have to result in death, because Jesus gave His body as the payment for the sins of every one of us.
- ❖ His body has already been offered to God and accepted by God in payment for our sin.
- ❖ Our part is to believe this! To have faith enough to act on it and be baptized into the name and identity of Jesus Christ, which places us into His body which has carried our sins, conquered death and lives forever.
- ❖ John 1:12-13 sums up this aspect of freedom: ...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- ❖ We are born of God. We are free from the necessity to follow our earthly nature. Free to live as Jesus did, to be vessels of God in this world. And free to live beyond death, beyond the boundaries of this human body and this present world.
- ❖ Does Christian Freedom mean I can do anything I want with no guilt or condemnation? To use the words of Paul from Romans 6:2, "God Forbid! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"
- ❖ Galatians 5 goes into this some more. For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another....I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh....And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- ❖ In Romans 8, notice that all the wonderfulness of being free from the law of sin and death is directed toward a particular set of people – those "who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

KEY SCRIPTURES: 2 Corinthians 3:17; Romans 6:1-2, 8:1-2; Galatians 5:13, 5:16, 5:24-25; John 1: 12-13, 14:12-14

- ❖ So, we each have to ask ourselves the question: "Am I one of those?" How can we check?
- ❖ Ask this question: "Are my thoughts, feelings, conversations, actions, entertainments, ambitions and all of that mainly about this world? This flesh? The next material thing, the next pleasure I want to enjoy?"
- ❖ Or do I find that something different is taking place within me? That I'm moving toward God more and more, and actually becoming a different kind of person? That my thoughts, feelings, interests and relationships and how I spend my time are leaning in a different direction; moving toward the life of the Spirit?
- ❖ If so, you know that it feels great. It feels *freeing*. A lot of stuff that used to matter sooo much doesn't matter so much anymore. And you're seeing the hand of God at work in your life, taking care of things in ways you couldn't possibly have done yourself.
- ❖ Christian Freedom is truly *Christlike Freedom* – freedom to be like Christ. As He was in this world, so we are free to be.
- ❖ Let's end with the words of Jesus from John 14. ¹²Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son....¹⁵If you love Me, keep My commandments."
- ❖ When we put our Christian freedoms into action, those around us get to experience God's presence and His power. The candle comes out from under the bushel. There's light. Warmth. Salvation. Healing. And deliverance.
- ❖ Lives will change forever – including ours.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Physical life mirrors spiritual principles. In an airplane, what are we free/not free to do? Why are there restrictions on our movements? In Christ, what are we free/not free to do? Why is it important i) to take advantage of the freedoms and ii) to live within the restrictions?
2. Discuss the 'freedoms' Jesus tells us to live out in Matthew 5 and 6. On the surface, do they all seem like freedoms? How does following these instructions set us free? (Compare James 1:2-4.)

PRAYER TIME

Lord, thank You for the freedom that You died to give us access to. May I use it well. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What are some things you are barred from doing by governmental laws/bylaws that you wish you were free to do?

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/wepprayatfaithsanctuary/>

**PRAYER FOCUS: U.P.C.I. Ontario District departments,
leaders, participants**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

To register for in-person Sunday services (3 options):

- 1) Go to www.faithsanctuary.com > click the "Eventbrite" link in the top menu;
- 2) **Facebook:**
www.facebook.com/faithsanctuarytoronto/events; or
- 3) Go to **Eventbrite:** www.eventbrite.com/e/july-5-2020-sunday-morning-service-tickets-110443601786

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

Praise God, I'm free

I've been set free by the grace of God
I'm free, no more the paths of sin I trod

I'm free

The blood has cleansed every sinful stain

I'm free (Praise the living God)

I'm free again

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:

Bible Study – **10:15 a.m.**
Morning service – **11:00 a.m.**

- o Go to www.faithsanctuary.com >click "livestream" link (or type in www.faithsanctuary.com/live)
- o Go to www.youtube.com >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- o Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- o Call **1-844-268-4848** for toll-free telephone access

In-depth Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Facebook and Zoom)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JULY 26, 2020


Faith
SANCTUARY
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

Galatians 5:1 NKJV

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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