

# The Need to Be Freed

---

John 8:31-48



## Main Idea

---

All people are in need of being set free from that which truly enslaves us.

This true freedom is not something we can obtain by our own means - it is only (and surely) granted by Christ to those who belong to Him.



## The Need to Be Freed

---

1. The surprising offense of Jesus' teaching
2. The nature of true slavery
3. The nature of true freedom



## John 8:31-36

---

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

<sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.



## John 8:37-41

---

<sup>37</sup> I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

<sup>39</sup> They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father."

Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. <sup>40</sup> But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the deeds of your father."



## John 8:41-45

---

They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.”

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

<sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.



## John 8:46-48

---

<sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

<sup>47</sup> He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”



## The Need to Be Freed

---

- L. The surprising offense of Jesus' teaching
  - a) "Belief" is not enough (vs 31)



John 8:30-31

As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. So Jesus was saying **to those** Jews **who had believed** Him, ...



## The Need to Be Freed

---

- L. The surprising offense of Jesus' teaching
  - a) "Belief" is not enough (vs 31)



John 8:31-32

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, **“If you continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”



Continuing in Jesus' word means believing on Him and receiving Him as he offers Himself – as the only way for us to be saved. This is ongoing and is evidenced by our continued belief in the gospel message and continual trust in Christ.

Continue in Jesus' word = Keep believing the Gospel and trusting in Christ alone.

If you do that, then it proves that you are truly disciples of Christ, and you will be free indeed!



## The Need to Be Freed

---

- L. The surprising offense of Jesus' teaching
  - a) "Belief" is not enough (vs 31)
  - b) Apart from Christ you are not free, you are a slave to sin (vs 32-34)



John 8:32-34

<sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

<sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; **how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?**”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.**



Jesus did not come to fulfill your lesser needs and desires while leaving your greatest need unmet.

He came in order to free you from your slavery to sin.



## The Need to Be Freed

---

- L. The surprising offense of Jesus' teaching
  - a) "Belief" is not enough (vs 31)
  - b) Apart from Christ you are not free, you are a slave to sin (vs 32-34)
  - c) You are helpless and entirely dependent on Jesus to set you free (vs 35-36)



John 8:35-36

<sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.

<sup>36</sup> **So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**



## The Need to Be Freed

---

### L. The surprising offense of Jesus' teaching

- a) "Belief" is not enough (vs 31)
- b) Apart from Christ you are not free, you are a slave to sin (vs 32-34)
- c) You are helpless and entirely dependent on Jesus to set you free (vs 35-36)

Does this offend you?  
Or Cause you to rejoice?



# The Need to Be Freed

---

## 2. The nature of true slavery

a) Slavery to sin is proven by continuing in sin (vs 34)



John 8:34

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who *is practicing* sin is the slave of sin.



# The Need to Be Freed

---

## 2. The nature of true slavery

- a) Slavery to sin is proven by continuing in sin (vs 34)
- b) Slavery to sin is proven by prideful blindness (vs 33) and self-righteousness (vs 39-41)



John 8:33

<sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and **have never yet been enslaved to anyone**; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”



A non-believer does not continue in sin and reject God's authority because they are free...

They do so because they are obeying the authority of another master that owns them – their sin.



## The Need to Be Freed

---

### 2. The nature of true slavery

- a) Slavery to sin is proven by continuing in sin (vs 34)
- b) Slavery to sin is proven by prideful blindness (vs 33) and self-righteousness (vs 39-41)

John 8:39-41

<sup>39</sup> They answered and said to Him, “**Abraham is our father.**”

Jesus said to them, “If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham. <sup>40</sup> But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.”



John 8:39-41

<sup>39</sup> They answered and said to Him, “**Abraham is our father.**”

Jesus said to them, “**If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham.** <sup>40</sup> But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.”

## What are the deeds of Abraham?

- Genesis 15:6 "Abraham believed God, and He reckoned it to him as righteousness."
- Romans 4:16 "<sup>16</sup> For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to **those who are of the faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all..."
- Galatians 3:6-9 "<sup>6</sup> Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, **be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.** <sup>8</sup> The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer."



Galatians 3:6-9 “<sup>6</sup> Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, **be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.**

# The Need to Be Freed

---

## 2. The nature of true slavery

- a) Slavery to sin is proven by continuing in sin (vs 34)
- b) Slavery to sin is proven by prideful blindness (vs 33) and self-righteousness (vs 39-41)
- c) Slavery to sin results in rejecting Christ (vs 43, 47)



Rejecting Christ does not lead to slavery...

It is slavery to the sinful nature that leads to  
rejecting Christ

John 8:43, 47

<sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.

<sup>47</sup> He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”



John 8:45

<sup>45</sup> But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

# The Need to Be Freed

---

## 3. The nature of true freedom

a) Freedom from the penalty of sin



Romans 8:1-4

Therefore **there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

## The Need to Be Freed

---

### 3. The nature of true freedom

- a) Freedom from the penalty of sin
- b) Freedom from the power of sin



## Romans 6:1-7

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin.

Our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, **so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;** <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin.



## The Need to Be Freed

---

### 3. The nature of true freedom

- a) Freedom from the penalty of sin
- b) Freedom from the power of sin
- c) A Future Freedom from the presence of Sin



# The Need to Be Freed

---

John 8:31-48