

## "I am Free!"

John 8.36; Romans 8.1-2; Galatians 5.1, 13

"I'm free!" Many in the world can't say that; many who can don't know what freedom means. Some confuse it with license. Sadly, many people who are free live as slaves. And that describes some Christians, too. Are you 'free in Christ'? Are you living like it? What can steal my freedom?

- I'm free!...from what?  
*Free from the penalty of sin!* (John 5.24; Heb. 2.14-15)  
*Free from the power of sin!* (Rom. 8.1-2; 31-34)  
*Free from the Law! (and from living by rules)* (Gal.5.1)
- I'm free! Now what?  
*Freedom ≠ no responsibility*  
*Freedom ≠ doing whatever I want*  
*Freedom ≠ no consequences for sin*
- Relishing Freedom, Rejecting Freedom  
*The tragedy of free people choosing slavery*  
  
*The tragedy of Christians returning to slavery (Rom. 6.15-19)*



1. Freedom is a concept that many American Christians struggle with, since we are a free country. Interestingly, people who are born into slavery – since they have never known ‘freedom,’ don’t understand it. Spiritually, both of these conditions affect us. Unsaved people don’t think of themselves as ‘slaves of sin,’ and many Christians don’t value their freedom in Christ. What does spiritual freedom mean to you? Can you see the spiritual slavery of the lost?
2. Freedom has three “tenses” in our Christian lives. In the past, we *have been* freed from the *penalty* of sin. Read John 3.16-18; 5.24; 8.33-36; Heb. 2.14-15. How do these verses affirm this freedom?
3. In the present, we *are being* freed from the *power* of sin. Read Romans 7.24-25; 8.1-2; 31-34; Gal. 5.13. What is the reality of our lives now? How do we access this power? Some Christians treat their new freedom like another set of rules to follow. Read Gal. 5.1; Acts 13.38-39; 1 Cor. 9.1, 19; 1 Pet. 2.16. How can we live in our new freedom without living under the Law again? What motivates us to live godly lives as Christians?
4. In the future, we *will be* free from the *presence* of sin (in heaven)! Read Romans 8.18-25. What is the freedom that all creation groans for? Can you imagine what it will be like to live without any sin?
5. Freedom is equated by some today as meaning you can do whatever you want, you have no responsibility, and no consequences for your actions. This is false freedom. Sadly, many churches today proclaim this heresy. Read 2 Peter 2.18-19. False teachers (unbelievers) were luring Christians back into sin! Do we see this today?
6. Free people can live like slaves – it’s a tragedy when it happens, and it happens to Christian, too. Although we’re freed from sin, we can still live like slaves of sin. Read Romans 6.15-23. How does a *free* Christian live like a slave (16)? He is *not* a slave of sin (17), but of righteousness (18). As “slaves” of God (22), we can still “work” for our old master, sin. What ‘wage’ does it pay (23)? Don’t do it!