

LIVE FREE! | John 8:31-36

Real freedom is not autonomy or self-rule. It is not found in man's ideas of independence and earthly freedom—it is found in Christ alone. Jesus exposes our bondage to sin, breaks our chains, and brings us into God's family as sons and daughters. True freedom is both a gift and a calling: to walk by the Spirit, to reject the old master of sin, and to serve others in love. True freedom requires moral discipline, virtue, and self-control.

Read John 8:31-36

31 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.

Additional Verses

- Galatians 5:1, 13 - It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.
- 1 Corinthians 6:12 - "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything.
- 1 Corinthians 10:23, 24 - "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.
- Proverbs 25:28 - Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.
- John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Questions for Reflection

1. What speaks to you the most? What words stand out to you? Is there a key verse?
2. Jesus says, "*Everyone who sins is a slave to sin*" (John 8:34). How does this challenge our cultural definition of freedom? The Jews responded, "*We have never been slaves of anyone*" (John 8:33). What does this reveal about human denial of bondage? Where do you see modern versions of this same blind spot today?
3. What does it mean to be free indeed? Jesus says, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). What does it mean to "know the truth"? How does John

14:16 shed light on this?

4. The sermon notes, “Chained hands cannot unlock your own shackles.” What attempts at self-freedom do people commonly try? How does Acts 16 illustrate that true freedom requires outside intervention?
5. Paul says, “All things are lawful... but not all things are beneficial.” How does this challenge cultural ideas of freedom? Paul says not everything is “constructive” or “edifying,” even if lawful. How does this principle apply to personal decision-making? Why is it important to seek the good of others rather than solely our own good? Why might serving others in love be one of the greatest expressions of freedom?
6. Identify one major takeaway from this lesson. What insight did you gain? Summarize it in one or two sentences.

Summary: You were called to be free! Biblical freedom is not just escaping a prison; it is adoption into God's family. You are set free to love and serve others to live out your original, God-given purpose without fear.

Set FREE from...

- The penalty of sin: guilt and shame
- The power of sin: addiction and bondage
- The presence of sin: eternal condemnation

Set FREE to...

- Serve, love, and obey
- Live with purpose
- Live without fear

A free society cannot survive on laws alone. It requires citizens who voluntarily limit their own freedoms for the sake of virtue and the common good. Look around your community. People are drowning in anxiety, shame, and addiction. Share the news that the original breaker of chains is still setting people free today.

Lord, thank You for the freedom You have won for me through Christ. Break every chain that binds me so I walk daily in Your power of Your Spirit with self-control and love for others. Help me reject the old ways of sin to use my freedom to serve others in love in ways that honor You as Your beloved child. Amen.

Bible Refs: [John 8:31-36](#); [Galatians 5](#); [Romans 8:1-2](#); [1 Corinthians 6:12](#); [1 Corinthians 10:23-24](#); [Proverbs 25:28](#); [Proverbs 29:2](#); [Psalm 33:10-22](#); [John 14:6](#)
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