

The Truth About Freedom

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me [Jesus]...He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free" —Luke 4:18

As will hopefully become clear, it's impossible to have a truly meaningful discussion of freedom in Christ without seeing its connection to "law".

The Law is not for Christians. *We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinners, the unholy and irreligious...* (1 Timothy 1:8-10)

The Law shows us that we are prisoners of sin. *But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.* (Gal. 3:19-24)

The Law cannot justify a person. *Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.* (Galatians 2:16)

The Law cannot impart life. *Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law.* (Galatians 3:21)

The Law actually arouses sin! *For when we were controlled by the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.* (Romans 7:5, 8)

The Law curses and condemns you. *All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."* (Galatians 3:10; See also: 2 Corinthians 3:7-9)

Jesus, born under Law, fulfilled it for us. *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, 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.* (Romans 8:3-4)

Those in Christ have died to the Law. *So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God...But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.* (Romans 7:4-6)

Law and faith do not mix. *So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith [in Him]. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.* (Galatians 3:24-25)

Don't look to the Law! *You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?* (Galatians 3:1-3)

What about living by rules? *Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.* (Colossians 2:20-23)

Grace, not Law, teaches us to live godly lives! *For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for...the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ* (Titus 2:11-13)

Summary:

- 1) Jesus freed you **FROM** having to try to obey the law. (See: Ro. 7:4-6)
- 2) Jesus freed you **FOR** a new life of slavery to Him. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Ro. 6:18)
- 3) Jesus freed you **TO** enjoy your freedom! 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. (Galatians 5:1)

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is THE LAW !!!

—1 Corinthians 15:56