

## John 8:30-36

### The Truth Shall set you Free Pt.3

John 8:30–36 (NKJV)

<sup>30</sup> As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

<sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

## Introduction

“In America, the “land of the free,” we often confuse the true nature of freedom. For many of us, freedom has become synonymous with personal independence — the ability to make our own decisions and choose our own path in life, to do whatever we want, whenever we want” (focus on the family)

The topic of Freedom is not a small issue.

Men and Women have died for it.  
Nations have been and are enslaved without it.  
World Wars have been conducted in order to protect it.

In our country particularly, We have elected presidents on the premise that we will will have more freedom. And we all know how upset some become when there is talk of taking away our freedoms.

But with all the talk about Freedom in our country, the freedom that Christ discusses in this passage is not the freedom we so often hear about in our culture. In fact, it could be argued that much of the talk of freedom in the contemporary church is not the freedom promoted in the Bible.

**Martin Luther once wrote**

“A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one.”

Some have said that the church is in love with the first of the phrases of Martin Luther

“ A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none”

But have little interest or out right disregard for the second part of the the statement

“a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one.”

It is in this context the we find the Church today. It is the sad reality that much of the talk of Freedom in Christ today is really an new form of Antinomianism.

There is a new fascination with freedom to the point that is “My freedom in your face”

Christians seem to want to push the limits as far as they can go while all along declaring Christian Freedom.

By the actions of many, it is...

“How close can I get to sin without sinning”

or

“How much of the world can I have with out becoming worldly”

Instead of a passionate pursuit for purity and holiness we have cloaked our pursuit of sin and evil in our Liberty in Christ.

In

1 Peter 2:16 (NKJV)

We are warned

<sup>16</sup> as free, yet **not using liberty as a cloak for vice**, but as bondservants of God.

With that said, it is important to note that there is a real struggle among believers as to what True Christian Freedom looks like....

### **On one side we have the legalist group**

that live by a very strict view of Christian freedom where they are governed by a long list of rules that are made by them or others. They often determine the validity of someone's Christianity based on whether they follow the rules they have made up.

### **On the other side we have the License group**

They live free from rules as much as they can, in fact they determine a lot of what they do in an antagonistic response to legalistic rules. They live on the edge, pushing the limits, going as far as they can without overtly sinning. For them, their theme is, "All things are lawful for me"

Then there's the group in the middle

not legalist, not license but just wanting to please the Lord

questions are sincerely asked about

1. How should I dress
2. Can I wear slacks
3. Can I have long hair
4. Should I have short hair

5. Can I see a movie
6. Can I go to the theater
7. Can I work on Sunday
8. Is it ok to go to a ball game on Sunday afternoon
9. Is is ok to go out to eat on Sunday
10. What about wine, can I drink it
11. Is it ok to smoke
12. What about tattoos, are they ok?
13. Can I listen to certain styles of music

All of these are important questions, and are all dealt with under the topic of Freedom in Christ.

## Review:

### 1. Free from The Curse

Galatians 3:10

<sup>10</sup> For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*"

James 2:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

## 2 Free from Condemnation

Romans 8:1–2 (NKJV)

**8** *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

## 3. Free from the Customs Rituals

Galatians 5:1–2 (NKJV)

**5** Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. <sup>2</sup> Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.

Colossians 2:13–17 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, <sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

<sup>16</sup> So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, <sup>17</sup> which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

## 4 Free from the Continuation

### Romans 6:6–14 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. <sup>10</sup> For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. <sup>13</sup> And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

### Galatians 5:13–25 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

# Lesson

## Galatians 5:13–25

1. Our Freedom in Relation to our Flesh
2. Our Freedom in Relation to our Family

### I. Our Freedom in Relation to our Flesh

#### 1. You are Free from the Flesh

<sup>13</sup> For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh,

<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

#### Romans 6:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin.

## **2. You are Free to Fight the Flesh**

<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

### **The Flesh and Spirit are Contrary**

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

## **3. You are Free to be Faithful**

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” <sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Your freedom does not mean freedom to be indifferent to the will and Word of God, or to be disobedient. It is the freedom to obey; it is the freedom to pursue righteousness. You have become a slave of righteousness; and it is a willing, loving slavery, because you have such a loving Lord who lavishes you with all these blessings through His Spirit.

## **Romans 13:8–10** (NKJV)

### ***Love Your Neighbor***

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there *is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this

saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.

## 4. You are Free of the Non-Forbidden

“.....regarding things that are not forbidden and things that are not necessarily required by God. There are a lot of things that aren't in the Bible, right, a lot of things. We talk about certain habits aren't in the Bible, certain behaviors that are not in the Bible. The Bible doesn't say things specifically about certain forms of entertainment. The Bible doesn't say anything in particular about certain things that people do recreationally. It doesn't say anything in explicit terms about whether you should drink or not drink, whether should attend a theater or not attend a theater, whether you should indulge in recreation at this level or that level, or whether you should take a vacation, an extended vacation – the Bible doesn't talk about that. The Bible doesn't talk about categories of behavior that are neither righteous or unrighteous. But life is full of those kinds of decisions that we have to make.

So what do we do? Well, look, if you are an antinomian and you think you're free from sin, you've got no problem with these things. If you think you're free from any condemnation, and so you don't have to worry about sin, you're not going to live under law – as I said last week – you're going to follow the lead of that preacher who said, “Just remember that the Lord called you to a dance, not a war. You don't need to feel like you're a soldier, just go dance your life away.”

So if you think that you're just supposed to go blissfully and have fun and ignore the law of God because Christ paid for your sin anyway, and Christ's perfect life has already been credited to your account, so there's no loss, so live it up; if that's what you think, you're going to have interest in what I'm about to say, because what I'm about to say is, not only is that heretical and may well indicate that you're not a Christian or you would love God and His law, but your freedom also has further limits on things that aren't forbidden in Scripture. How do you deal with those? Well, let me give you a handful of questions that will answer how you deal with them.”

John MacArthur

[There are a series of Questions you need to ask yourself about those things that are not clearly forbidden in Scripture.](#)

## **1. Will it be spiritually profitable?**

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Not all things are beneficial. Not all things are to my spiritual advantage. Instead of thinking, “How can I live as close as possible to the edge of sin and survive, and how can I live as close as possible to the tolerances of God with regard to doubtful things and still be okay?” you ask the question that is at the other end of the spectrum, “Is this spiritually beneficial? Is it to my advantage?”

There are a lot of things that are lawful. There are a lot of things that you could do. But will they be spiritually profitable? Because everything in the believer’s life needs to be spiritually profitable. And that’s what we desire. And spiritual benefits and spiritual blessings as they come to us come full of joy and peace.

## **2. Will it Build me up?**

1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

So now we're not only looking for something that's profitable, beneficial, we're looking for something that builds us up, something that strengthens us.

“Is it going to actually make me stronger as a believer? Is it going to lift me up, build me up, edify me?”

### **3. If I do this, will it hinder my running the race of faith? Will it weigh me down?**

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)

**12** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

The writer says the word “race” is *agōn* from which we get “agony.” It’s an effort, it’s an effort; it requires endurance. There’s a long race. This is a lifelong marathon we’re engaged in. This is a very hard, long race. And in order to run this race effectively there are two things that you need to eliminate. “Lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us.” It easily entangles us because it’s there in us, in our flesh.

So he says there are two things: “sin,” that’s clear; we know what that is – what God forbids. But what is this encumbrance? It’s not sin, because it’s used as another burden. It is encumbrance and the sin. So what is the encumbrance? The Greek term is *ogkos*, it means “bulk.” It isn’t sin, it is something else that is unnecessary weight.

So the third question is this: If I do this, will it hinder my running the race of faith? Will it weigh me down? Do I need to carry this? You don’t see a hundred-meter sprinter with an overcoat. You don’t see an athlete going out to run a marathon carrying a suitcase. That’s the unnecessary bulk.

Is it something that diverts my attention, that sucks my energy, that lowers my eyes from looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of the faith? Is it something that reorders my priorities? Is it something that eats up my energy uselessly? Is it something that fills my mind of things that have no value like watching stupid videos, and reading stupid literature, and filling your mind with things that have no value?

Why would you want to run the race of endurance carrying around that kind of baggage?

So, my freedom is not freedom to sin, and it’s not even freedom to do things that might not be sinful in themselves, but they don’t provide any spiritual benefit, they don’t build me up, and they very well could slow me down in the race?

## 4. Will this likely Start a habit ?

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

I don't want to start a habit that sucks my attention and my energy and my focus. This is to be brought under the power of someone, or under the power of something other than the Spirit of God. I don't want to become a slave to anything except my Lord and righteousness

## 5. Will it be consistent with Christ Likeness

1 John 2:5–6 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

***John 13:15 (NKJV)***

<sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (NKJV)

Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

### **Ephesians 5:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us,....

### **1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

### **Galatians 4:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

## **6. Will it Glorify God**

### **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)**

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

So you see, a Christian is not saying, “How much sin can I get away with? And how much sort of neutral stuff can I fill my life with because I’m under grace, and I don’t want to live this life of law?” No, the Christian says, “How hard can I run in the direction of righteousness? How devoted can I be toward godliness, purity, and holiness? And how can I eliminate out of my life anything, even things that aren’t forbidden but that have the power to pull me in the wrong direction? Freedom in Christ is far from freedom to sin. It’s even far from freedom to indulge yourself in all the distractions, all the bulk, all the encumbrances, all the bad habits that life offers us.

## 2. Our Freedom in Relation to our Family

Galatians 5:13

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

**Philippians 2:2–5** (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup> *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

## **OUR Love of others brings Restrictions to our Freedom**

1 Corinthians 8:1–11:1 (NKJV)

**8**

<sup>4</sup> Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one.

<sup>6</sup> yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*.

<sup>7</sup> However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat *it* as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> But food does not commend us to God; for

neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

<sup>9</sup> But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. <sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? <sup>11</sup> And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

### ***A Pattern of Self-Denial***

**9** Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

<sup>4</sup> Do we have no right to eat and drink? .....

Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

<sup>19</sup> For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; <sup>20</sup> and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law; <sup>21</sup> to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law; <sup>22</sup> to the weak I became as weak, that I might

win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup> Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.

## 10

<sup>23</sup> All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

<sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

<sup>25</sup> Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; <sup>26</sup> for "*the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness.*"

<sup>27</sup> If any of those who do not believe invites you *to dinner*, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. <sup>28</sup> But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "*the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness.*"

<sup>29</sup> "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's* conscience? <sup>30</sup> But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for *the food* over which I give thanks?

<sup>31</sup> Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup> just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

**11** Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

## Romans 14:1–15:6 (NKJV)

### *The Law of Liberty*

**14** Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things. <sup>2</sup> For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup> One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup> He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.....

<sup>13</sup> Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

### *The Law of Love*

<sup>14</sup> I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that *there is* nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean.  
<sup>15</sup> Yet if your brother is grieved because of *your* food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup> Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; <sup>17</sup> for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.  
<sup>18</sup> For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.  
<sup>19</sup> Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.  
<sup>20</sup> Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed *are* pure, but *it is* evil for the man who eats with offense. <sup>21</sup> It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor *do anything* by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak. <sup>22</sup> Do you have faith? Have *it* to yourself before God. Happy *is* he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.  
<sup>23</sup> But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does not eat* from faith; for whatever *is* not from faith is sin.

### ***Bearing Others' Burdens***

**15 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples (weaknesses, doubts, infirmities) of the weak, (adunatos-powerless,without strength) and not to**

please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to edification. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “*The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.*” <sup>4</sup> For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. <sup>5</sup> Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This idea that you're supposed to live any way you want is so alien to Scripture. You obey the law of God because you love it. And even where there is no law of God regarding certain behaviors you run in the direction of what edifies and builds you up and gives you strength, and honors God and is like Christ, and you are determined not to live a life that would be a stumbling block to another believer to do

something that if that believer felt free to do it might destroy him.