

Overview:

Can you name all 10 guaranteed freedoms (rights) listed in the Bill of Rights? I am guessing that most of us can probably name a few but not all 10. We get so used to having these freedoms that they just become part of how we live. The only time we would take notice is if we lost them.

Here are few of the Rights: freedom of religion, right to bear arms, quartering of troops, right against unreasonable searches and seizures, and right against self-incrimination. Most Americans live every day without giving any thought to these freedoms. If the US government developed a national religion that everyone had to follow then we would remember we have freedom of religion. If members of the armed services just randomly decided they wanted to live in your house then you would remember your right against quartering troops. The lack of freedom is what usually gets people's attention.

All these freedoms are good for a secular government, but what does it mean to have freedom in Christ? The short answer is we receive freedom from the punishment of our sins. It states in Romans that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. His death provided us forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God. Romans 8:34 reads: ³⁴“Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” It is not just the death of Christ on the cross that provides us freedom, but it is His resurrection that gives up hope. Jesus has not only taken away the punishment of our sins, but has also taken the sting out of death.

Sometimes as believers we get so used to living in the freedom that Christ has given us that we take it for granted. Our freedom was bought with a price. Jesus gave up the glory of heaven to come and die on a cross. He conquered death so that one day you could enjoy life with Him. Take this Easter to remember the freedom you have in Christ and that there is no such thing as cheap grace.

Bible Study: Romans 8:1-4

1. How do you define freedom?
2. Read Galatians 5:1. Jesus wants you to experience freedom. After experiencing freedom, in what ways do believers become burdened again?
3. “The lower nature does not automatically fade away when a person comes to Christ. The need to put to death the evil practices of the body is ongoing.”¹ Read Romans 8:1. Discuss the difference between spiritual freedom found in Christ and freedom from some habitual sins.
4. What role does the resurrection have when it comes to finding freedom in Christ?
5. Read Romans 8:4. What is the key to finding freedom in Christ?
6. “If we are serious about progressing in the Christian life, we must seek every day to feed our minds with spiritual food. Too easily our “quiet times” can degenerate into routine exercises in which the mind is hardly involved. We read Scripture, but we don’t really seek to engage it by asking what it means or how it applies to us. We pray, but we follow the same pattern every day. Our daily times with the Lord can be one way in which we develop the mind-set of the Spirit, but only if the mind is really involved²

¹ Mounce, R. H. (1995). *Romans* (Vol. 27, p. 180). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Moo, D. J. (2000). *Romans* (p. 257). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

How can the daily reading of scripture and prayer help you find freedom in Christ?

7. This Easter think of one thing you would like to find freedom from. What is your plan for making your desire for freedom into a reality of freedom?