

Married to the Master

Have you ever felt like life is one big performance where you're constantly trying to measure up? Where every day is a struggle between doing right and wrong, trying to please others, and worrying about your next move? There's a better way to live - one where you're truly free from the exhausting cycle of performance-based living.

What Does It Mean to Be Truly Free?

When Jesus came to earth, He didn't just come to save us from hell - He came to set us completely free from everything that would try to bind us in this life. As it says in John's gospel, "He who commits sin is a slave to sin," but Jesus declared that "he whom the Son sets free is free indeed" - completely and totally free.

This freedom isn't just a future promise. God wants you to experience total liberty every day, every moment, every minute of your life. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. This is why America became the freest nation on earth - it was founded as one nation under God, and where He is present, freedom follows.

Why Do We Struggle with Rules and Regulations?

The struggle began in the Garden of Eden when mankind chose the tree of the knowledge of good and evil over simply walking with God. Instead of maintaining that perfect relationship where God's presence guided every decision, humanity entered into a system of law - a constant battle between right and wrong, good and evil.

This choice brought mankind under what Romans 7:4 describes as being "alive to the law" - living in performance mode, constantly trying to do the right thing and avoid the wrong thing. But here's the problem: when you're focused on rules and regulations, you're always worried about your performance rather than enjoying God's presence.

The Exhaustion of Performance-Based Living

Performance mode is exhausting because it's rooted in fear. You're always worried about:

- How you look to others
- Whether you're doing the right thing
- What people think about you
- Your next mistake
- Measuring up to expectations

This creates a life where you're constantly performing, putting on a smile even when you're struggling inside, pretending everything is okay when fear and worry are consuming you internally.

What Does It Mean to Be "Married to Him Who Was Raised from the Dead"?

Romans 7:4 reveals the solution: "Therefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God" (KJV).

This isn't about following more religious rules - it's about entering into a covenant relationship with Jesus that transforms how you live. When you're "married" to Christ, you're no longer trying to perform your way to righteousness. Instead, you're walking in relationship with Him.

From Performance to Presence

Jesus demonstrated this perfectly during His earthly ministry. He never struggled because He kept His eyes on the Father. He didn't live by a list of do's and don'ts - He lived in constant awareness of God's presence. As a result, everywhere He went, people were healed, delivered, and set free.

When you're walking with God, you don't need to know the difference between good and evil because you're always going to do the right thing at the right time. You're not focused on rules; you're focused on Him.

How Do You Walk in This Freedom Daily?

The key is shifting from performance-minded living to presence-minded living. Instead of constantly evaluating your performance, you become mindful of His presence. Instead of striving for success, you abide in Him who is success.

Practical Steps to Freedom:

- **Keep Your Eyes on Him:** Just like love songs talk about not being able to take your eyes off someone special, learn to keep your focus on Jesus throughout your day.
- **Remember You're Complete:** When you have Him, you have everything. You're not half of anything waiting for your "other half" - you're complete in Christ.
- **Live from Overflow, Not Need:** Because you're filled with God's love, you can overflow into other people's lives rather than desperately seeking their approval or affection.

What About When You Make Mistakes?

Here's the beautiful truth about being married to Christ: you're married to mercy. Even when you mess up and make mistakes, He turns them around for your good. When you get distracted and fall, He's right there to pick you up, wash you off, and remind you that there's no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

This isn't about perfect performance - it's about perfect relationship. As you continue walking with Him and yielding yourself to His presence, you're transformed from glory to glory, becoming more like Him naturally.

Why Does This Matter for Your Daily Life?

When you understand that you're dead to the law and alive to God, it changes everything. You're no longer driven by fear of man or worry about circumstances. Whether you're getting in your car, walking into a building, or facing challenges, you know that He is with you wherever you go.

This freedom affects every area of life - your relationships, your work, your health, your peace of mind. You were created to rule and reign in life, not to be controlled by circumstances or addicted to anything.

Life Application

This week, practice shifting from performance mode to presence mode. Instead of starting each day worried about how well you'll perform or what others will think, begin by acknowledging that you're married to Him who was raised from the dead. Throughout your day, when you feel the pressure to perform or the fear of man creeping in, remind yourself that you're complete in Christ and that His presence is with you.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I living in performance mode or presence mode today?
- Where am I seeking approval from people instead of resting in God's love?
- How can I keep my eyes on Jesus rather than on my circumstances?
- What areas of my life am I still trying to control through my own efforts instead of trusting in my relationship with Him?

Remember, you were created to walk with God in freedom, not to struggle under the weight of rules and regulations. He paid an awful price so that you would never be handcuffed again. It's time to walk in the liberty He purchased for you.

Quotes

1. “Jesus came and took the handcuffs off of us. Do you realize we were all criminals—serving an eternal life sentence, headed for death row, the lake of fire, hell?”
2. “God so loved the world that He sent His Son, saying, ‘No, I love you too much to let you go that way. I’m stepping in. I’m rescuing you. I’m taking your punishment for the crimes you committed.’”
3. “He paid an awful price so that you and I would never be handcuffed again—never bound again.”
4. “Jesus said, ‘He whom the Son sets free is free indeed’—completely and totally free. That’s total liberty.”
5. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty—there is freedom.”
6. “You and I were given dominion over nature, over all creation. We are meant to rule and reign in life.”
7. “Christ redeemed us from the curse. He redeemed you from a cursed life. As a believer, you have no business living under a curse.”
8. “God wants you blessed so you can be a blessing. The Bible says you’re blessed coming in and blessed going out—that’s His plan for you.”
9. “Man was created to walk with God—and where He is, there is liberty, freedom, and blessing.”
10. “Don’t try to do your own thing, make your own way, define your own success—when walking with Him is success.”

11. “You don’t need to know the difference between good and evil when you have God. When you have Him, you have everything you need.”
12. “What’s the key to never missing it? Never take your eyes off of Him.”
13. “Jesus never struggled. He didn’t wrestle with life—He walked right through trouble, right through problems.”
14. “We’re not living for the law anymore—not bound to rules, regulations, or trying to keep commandments.”
15. “When you come to Jesus, you die to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—you die to that toxic fruit.”
16. “You’re joined to such goodness and mercy that even when you miss it, God turns it for your good.”
17. “The world says life is a performance—‘How well are you doing? How well are you measuring up?’”
18. “Fear is at the root of constantly being focused on yourself, worried how you look.”
19. “If you have Jesus, you have it all—everything you could ever need or desire.”
20. “Instead of being performance-minded, we become presence-minded. Instead of striving for success, we abide in Him—and that is success.”

Verses

1. Romans 7:4
2. John 7
3. Genesis 1
4. Galatians 3:13
5. Genesis 2:15

6. Joshua

7. Psalm 23

Summary

Many people live in exhausting performance mode, constantly trying to measure up and please others while battling fear and worry. However, Jesus came to set us completely free from this cycle of performance-based living. Romans 7:4 reveals that we can be dead to the law and married to Christ, shifting from performance-minded living to presence-minded living. When we keep our eyes on Jesus rather than on rules and regulations, we experience true liberty where His presence guides our decisions. This freedom transforms every area of life - relationships, work, and peace of mind - allowing us to walk in the liberty Christ purchased for us.