

Let Freedom Ring...

The Declaration of Dependence

On July 4, 1776 a nation was born – under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Brave men and women declared their independence, penned their names to a document that declared our rights don't come from a king, a president, or a government. They declared that our rights are granted directly by our Creator.

And, as beautiful and precious as our American liberty is, it points us to an even greater reality. Long before 1776, a higher price was paid on a hill called Calvary for a different kind of freedom—a freedom that chains cannot hold, that governments cannot grant, and that time cannot decay..

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

Join us as we kick off this new series “Let Freedom Ring”. We will see what it truly means to live as a free people—both as citizens of this great nation and as the freed children of God.

The Truth

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32

God provides truth and evidence of it...If only we will see it and hold fast to it.

The Lie

33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” John 8:33

We mistake our ability to choose our distractions for true freedom.

The Ugly Truth

34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. John 8:34

Sin is not just a series of bad choices...it is a master. Apart from Jesus, our wills are bound to our fallen nature and we are slaves to it.

The Freedom

35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:35-36

True liberty isn't found in declaring independence from God, but in declaring our total dependence on the Son. He alone has the authority to change our status from "slave" to "child."

True liberty begins when we sign our own "Declaration of Dependence" at the cross.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – What is one area of your life where you might be confusing the "ability to choose your own distractions" with true freedom?

Tuesday – Jesus warned that "everyone who sins is a slave to sin". We choose sin, but does it feel like a choice you are making or a master you are serving? How so?

Wednesday – Jesus says, "a slave has no permanent place in the house, but a son belongs to it forever." How does knowing your permanent place with God change how you approach Him?

Thursday – True spiritual freedom means "abiding" in Christ's words. Does your daily schedule reflect look more like it's dwelling in Christ's truth or the world's anxieties?

Friday – True spiritual liberty requires a "Declaration of Dependence" at the cross. What is one thing you are trying to handle on your own that you need to surrender to Jesus today?