



UNSHACKLED – Freedom from

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BIG IDEA – What kind of freedom do I need?

scripture focus - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, **the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.** When you were slaves to sin, **you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of?** Those things result in death! Romans 6:20-22

Everyone has some kind of membership program that comes with a reward system. How many memberships/rewards programs do you have? Some memberships cost money to join, and others are free, but both offer advantages, discounts and benefits. If we looked at “freedom” as a club that we had to join, what would it cost and what are the benefits? If you think about it, the benefits God gives us through Christ is amazing!

The believer's benefit package is readily available **now** and for **all eternity**. Christ's death and resurrection does make All Things New!

However, all new things can only take place when **old things pass away! All things new mean change**. All things new means adjusting and accommodating new perspectives, new habits, new behaviors, and a whole new way of doing life!

What does the Bible tell us about our freedom?

Freedom has never been free.

Freedom cost the life of God's only son. A specific time and place in history, God sent Jesus to our very broken planet. To be born human. To live a human life. **To experience the restrictions of time and full expression of human emotion.** From the suffering and pain of disease, heartache and grief to the joy and exhilaration of beauty and celebration in this world. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...” [John 3:16](#)

Jesus lived on this planet just like us. Jesus lived with happy neighbors and crummy neighbors. Jesus celebrated at wedding parties and wept at funerals.

Jesus experienced church hurt through religious fanatics misrepresenting God. Jesus was misunderstood, mocked and murdered even though he was perfect and innocent in every situation.

So, believers have these benefits. But what exactly are we free from?

Freedom FROM:

1. **Sin:** The Bible often speaks of freedom in the context of **freedom from sin**.
 - **The Apostle Paul writing to the churches in Rome writes, "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."** [Romans 6:22](#) The Benefit: **karpos: fruit**. We reap: **hagiasmos: sanctification, the process of making or becoming holy**. Being free from sin allows us to become more like God and get rid of the horrible master of death, chaos and destruction.
 - **Paul, preaching in Antioch writes, "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. **Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.**"** [Acts 13:38-39](#)
 - An Old Testament prophet, **Ezekiel, addressed this question of the responsibility of sin. Who sinned?** There was an ancient proverb hinting that parents could live their life in such a way that the children would be infected and destined to repeat their mistakes! **Is there a genetic sin cycle?**
 - **The Lemon 🍋 object lesson.**
 - **Ezekiel 18 has this amazing object lesson because God was tired of people using their parent's sin as an excuse to behave badly. God told Ezekiel to tell the people, "quit quoting this proverb!"**
 - **Ask the question: When you bit into the lemon, did your children's mouths pucker?** [Ezekiel 18:2 NLT](#)
 - The person who sins is the one who will die. **The child will not be punished for the parent's sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child's sins.** Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness. [Ezekiel 18:20 NLT](#)
 - **Alienation from God.** Sin caused a chasm, a breach, a gap between every human being and a Holy God.
 - [Colossians 1:21](#) tells us that **we were once alienated from God and were enemies in our minds because of our evil behavior.** But now, Christ has reconciled us through his physical body through death to present us holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.
 - This includes those who drifted away from God. Paul continues, "But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. **Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.**" [Colossians 1:23](#)

2. The Law & Spiritual Slavery:

- **Why would someone need to be free of God's Law(s)?**
- Jesus made a bold statement that triggered the Jewish listeners, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [John 8:32](#)
- **Their question is the same type of question many of us have still today – "what do you mean set free... free from what?"**
- **John 8:36:** "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."
 - **Jesus had a heated discussion with those who understood their spiritual life and heritage hinged on being Abraham's children – "descendants of Abraham." Jesus confronted their misunderstanding of legalistic rights by blood vs adoptive rights by contract. [The full story](#). Notice the people are arguing with Jesus about who their 'true' father is. They were hooking their faith and salvation up to heritage rights instead of spiritual rights through Jesus himself. In vs 48, they were so angry they called Jesus a horrible, racist curse name – a half-breed deceiver (Samaritan devil). And further said the Jesus himself was possessed by a demon! The curse of Law, because of its standard of perfection, makes people crazy, mean and ugly.**
- **The Apostle Paul must have SHOCKED the readers in the churches in Rome when he told them, "We have been freed from sin and we are released from the law. We walk in newness of life and we serve in newness of the Spirit." [Romans 7:6](#)**
 - Paul explains what the Law does to us and why we need to be free from it as well - **When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.** But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. **Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.** [Romans 7:5-6](#)
 - The passions or motions of sin (**pathéma hamartia**) bristles and bucks when the perfection of the Law is presented to the corrupt mind of humans. When we are doing right, our conscience, our soul, can easily agree with a rule, a boundary or a law. But when we are doing wrong, or better yet **craving** wrong, there is no agreement, no settling in our soul. We want to challenge or rule over this law that tells us **NO!**
- **[2 Corinthians 3:6](#) He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant.** This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. **The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.**

- **What is it about this Moses' veil? 2 Corinthians 3:13-15?** "when they read Moses' writings (the Law of God), their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand."
- [2 Corinthians 3:16-18](#) **But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.** For the Lord is the Spirit, and **wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.** So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.
- **This is clearly "freedom from the Law," as mentioned above in [Romans 7:6](#)**

3. **Death:** The Bible tells us that through Jesus Christ, **we are freed from both deaths. What do I mean by both deaths?**

- **One death is the death of doing whatever we desire** – living by a deadly, distorted list of rules given by our disordered desires. God has called His children to holiness ([1 Peter 1:16](#)), and God corrects them when they sin. We are not "punished" for our sin in the sense of losing salvation or being eternally separated from God, yet we are disciplined. "The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son" ([Hebrews 12:6](#)).¹ Jesus said in [John 10:10](#), The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**
- **The other death** is the one no one wants to talk about – **eternity.**
- **Jesus made it crystal clear:** If you want to follow him, you've got to give up your own way, pick up your cross and follow him!
- Also saying, "If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. **And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? [Mark 8:34-37](#)**
- **Romans 6** the Apostle Paul writes about Sin's power being broken by Christ himself and one of the biggest reasons is to "reverse the curse." **What is the curse? Death!** [Romans 6:23](#), "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - **Quote:** "There is nothing more valuable than a person's soul. To trade that away is the epitome of foolishness." -- [Got Questions](#)
- **The author of the Hebrews confirms,** "And just as **each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment**, so also **Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people.** He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him. [Hebrews 9:27-28](#)

God wants us to be free, to **live** free – even in the midst of cultural chaos and uncertainty, He still provides wisdom, comfort and his presence through the Holy

Spirit. We are not alone! We do not face life and our own struggles alone – God walks with us.

How critical is it that we are restored back to God after we have sinned, after we have royally screwed up our life, even blaming, or cursing God when we didn't get our way.

NOTES

Scriptures

[Romans 6:22](#) But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

[Acts 13:38-39](#) Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

[Ezekiel 18:2](#) What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: " 'The parents eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'?"

[Ezekiel 18:20](#) The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent's sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child's sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.

[Colossians 1:21](#) Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

[Colossians 1:23](#) NLT But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

[John 8:32 NLT](#) And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

[John 8:36 NLT](#) So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

[Romans 7:6 NLT](#) But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

[Romans 7:5-6](#) When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

[2 Corinthians 3:6](#) He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

[2 Corinthians 3:16-18](#) But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

[Mark 8:34-37](#) Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”

[Romans 6:23](#) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Hebrews 9:27-28](#)

And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.

[Sins of the father – are they transferable?](#)

Today, we see how parental sin affects children. **Those who grow up watching sinful behavior are often more likely to engage in it themselves.** Certain sins take parents out of the home or inhibit their ability to be loving caregivers, setting the children up for possible problems in the future. **Addiction often has genetic components.** The relatively new field of **epigenetics (study of heritable traits)** is suggesting that trauma can leave “molecular scars” on our DNA—and that those scars are passed down genetically to the third and fourth generation.

[Got Questions about sin unto death?](#)

[28 Biblically Guaranteed Benefits of Following Jesus](#) – Mark Furlong

The Bible actually talks a lot more about the benefits, rewards, and promises of following Jesus than it does the costs and challenges. Psalm 103:2, for example tells us, “Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not ALL HIS BENEFITS.”

Does the Bible say that I have a choice to be good or to be bad?

Yes, the Bible does indicate that individuals have the freedom to choose between good and evil. In Deuteronomy 30:19, it says, "Today I am giving you a choice of two ways. And I ask heaven and earth to be witnesses of your choice. You can choose life or death. The first choice will bring a blessing. The other choice will bring a curse. So choose life! Then you and your children will live."⁴ This suggests that individuals have the freedom to choose their actions, but these choices come with consequences.

Furthermore, Joshua 24:15 states, "But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."¹ This verse implies that individuals have the freedom to choose whom they will serve.

However, the Bible also emphasizes that while individuals have the freedom to make choices, they should seek wisdom and guidance from God in making these decisions¹. It encourages individuals to make choices that align with God's teachings and lead to life and blessings⁴.

Questions:

[Is the human soul mortal or immortal?](#)

Benson Commentary – John 21:1

Jesus, then in person, **ordered his disciples to go home to Galilee, with a promise that they should see him there**, it is reasonable to think that they would depart as soon as possible. Wherefore when they were come to their respective homes and were employed in their former occupation of fishing.