

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

No Longer A Slave

In the New Testament, the words “free,” “make free,” and “made free,” originate from the Greek word “*eleutheros*” which properly means “*unrestrained, that is, not a slave.*” Slavery was very common in the Roman Empire, and for one to be “*eleutheros*,” or “*not a slave*,” was not to be taken for granted. The understanding of this word, and its usage in the scripture, explains why the Jews were so offended when Jesus told them “*the truth shall make you free.*” John 8:32. They immediately objected to this statement because they knew it implied they were slaves. They responded to Jesus, saying, “*We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, You shall be made free?*” John 8:33. Literally, they were asking, “How can you say that you will make us not to be slaves?”

Jesus’ answer only increased their offence. He said, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever commits sin is the servant (slave) of sin.*” John 8:34. Jesus was pointing out that the actions of sin are merely acts of obedience to the power of sin that reigns in a person’s heart. The Apostle Paul confirms this type of slavery, saying, “*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants (slaves) ye are to whom ye*

obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16. The Apostle Peter also identifies this connection between sin and slavery, saying, **"...they themselves are the servants (slaves) of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."** II Peter 2:19. Sin is not just a fleshly action. It is an outward obedience to the depravity which reigns in a person's heart.

Jesus gave every 'slave to sin' a promise, saying, **"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."** John 8:36. No honest reading of this passage can deny that Jesus was promising to deliver us from slavery to sin. Sin ceases to have power over us when Jesus Christ washes sin's presence from our heart.

The Apostle Paul also was very clear that the redeemed are no longer slaves to sin. He said, **"...sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."** Romans 6:14. He builds on this statement, saying, **"Being then made free from sin (not a slave to sin), ye became the servants of righteousness."** Romans 6:18. If you are truly under grace, sin is no longer your master, but righteousness now reigns in your heart. Paul reaffirms this again, saying, **"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."** Romans 6:22. Holiness is not a struggle for those whom Christ has made free. It is simply the natural fruit of a walk in Christ.

On this one issue, almost all Christian movements agree. As a whole, the Catholic, along with the

Protestant, the Baptist along with the Pentecostal, the Reformist along with the Charismatic, and every other established Christian group I know, reject that Jesus actually makes us free from sin. My question to such is, **“Why do you act like Jesus lied about this?** Either He makes us free from sin, or He leaves us in bondage to sin. Either He told the truth, or He lied. Which do you believe?”

I know man of God named Curtis Nestegard, who for years as a minister in Alaska struggled with unclean lusts and desires. These lusts were so powerful that he thought they would completely destroy him. Other ministers told him, “These struggles are just the way it is.” He continually sought God for an answer until God gave him understanding of the 6th chapter of Romans where Paul clearly tells us *“...that our old man is crucified with him (Christ), that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* Romans 6:6. When he saw that our deliverance from sin is the reason Jesus went to the cross, his struggles ceased and every sinful lust departed. He saw the truth and it made him free! As he attempted to share the glory of what Christ had done for him with other ministers, he found none who would believe it. Finally, a minister said, “Brother, I don’t know anyone who walks in the victory you claim God has given to you.” “That may be so,” Bro. Nestegard replied, “But I am not going to give mine up!” Don’t let someone else’s unbelief rob you of the freedom Jesus Christ purchased for you with his own blood.