

4th of July True Freedom

JULY 2, 2023

On a weekend like the 4th of July, in a country whose national anthem proclaims that we live in “The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.” When it comes to our spirituality, some of us feel anything but free. So what does it look like for us to experience true, authentic freedom?

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Freedom can be proclaimed, but it doesn't mean we all experience it.
- We can experience oppression from external forces, and from within.
- For many of us, it's sin that has us stuck.
- ...we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. | Romans 6:6-7
- What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? | Romans 6:15-16
- We're all under the rule of something—and that “something” determines whether we experience a life of freedom or a life of suffering.
- Sin doesn't have to be your master or dominate your thoughts, actions, and life.
- What God has for you is still available and it's better than you could hope for or imagine.
- I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. | John 10:10
- When we allow sin to perpetuate in our lives, it dims our light and it distances us from God, often so subtly that we don't even notice.
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. | 1 John 1:9
- “The fall is manifested not only in our sinning but in our response to our sinning. We minimize, we excuse, we explain away.” | Dane Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly
- Prioritize our time with God.
- Let's stop merely checking a box when it comes to church.
- Let's seek friendships with people who are moving in the direction we want to go.
- Let's search for the sin in our lives, and when we find it, repent and turn away from it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. By nature, we all tend to rush to defend ourselves, even when we're wrong. What are some of your go-to, self-defense moves when you're in the wrong?
2. Sin is something that separates us from God and holds us back from experiencing true freedom. What are some of the ways you've observed that your sin keeps you from experiencing life to the full?
3. Prioritizing time with God, fully engaging in church, developing friendships that point you to Jesus, searching for our sin and repenting—which of these areas help you the most in experiencing freedom? Which of these areas needs the most growth right now?