

Let Freedom Ring!

Intro:

1. ILL: Except from “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King Jr. (March on Washington, Aug 28, 1963, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial)
2. If real freedom is going to happen then it must go beyond the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 & 1968.
3. Where does the Bible tell us to “Let Freedom Ring”?

John 8:31-36

I. Where Does the Bible Tells Us to Let Freedom Ring?

A. ILL: Most of the religions of the world are based on keeping rules.

B. You are free from the curse of the Law. (The OT Law of Moses)

1. The purpose of the law.

a. Gal 3:23-25 - Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

b. ILL: The law was a crossing Guard. (The Greek παιδαγωγός was an old slave trusted with a child’s moral character. His only duty was to see that the child got safely to & from his school teacher. Like Uncle Remos in “Song of the South”!)

2. You are no longer justified by obeying the Law of Moses.

a. Rom 8:2 - the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

b. God wants to work more on your hearts than your brains.

c. The fallacy of the Jewish ceremonial system was that it was all heady - no heart!

d. ILL: Healing of the Man Born Blind (Jn 9:1-34)

C. You are free from the legalistic attitudes that are created by law.

1. You need to realize that you are saved by grace!

a. Eph 2:8 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

b. ILL: Hitchhiker asking me if I was saved.

2. You can get caught up in religious legalism.

a. Rom 14:1 - Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

b. Col 2:20-23 - Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

3. Because justification doesn’t come by the Jewish law - us Gentiles can be saved! Gal 3:13-14 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

4. The truth is you & I are just sinners saved by grace.

a. The cross is our only hope.

b. God’s minimum requirement for getting into heaven by living a good life is perfection.

II. The Abuse of Letting Freedom Ring Uncontrolled

A. Becoming a stumbling block to the weaker brother.

1. **I Cor 8:9 - Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.**
2. **ILL: The Meat Eating Question (Rom 14:1-15:2).**

B. Becoming an excuse for indulging in sin.

1. **Gal 5:13 - You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.**
2. **I Pet 2:16 - Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.**
3. **Your baptism is a sign of your freedom from the sin life (Rom 6).**

C. Now that you are free - you can volunteer to enslave yourself to Christ. **I Cor 9:19 - Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.**

Let freedom ring in your life.

1. **Don't be in bondage to legalistic thinking!**
2. **Don't use your freedom as an excuse to live a sinful life!**

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