

The U.S. Postal Service recently issued a set of Forever stamps with the theme of Freedom, Liberty, Justice, and Equality. Our nation was founded on these principles. However, no nation will stand forever. God, on the other hand, will exist forever. He also possesses these four qualities and is willing to share them with those who have faith in Him.

Freedom

One definition of freedom is “liberation from slavery.” Through Jesus Christ, God offers liberation from the slavery of sin. John 8:31-36 states that the truth of God’s word offers such freedom. That freedom begins when one is baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-7). Romans 6:18 goes on to say that *“having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”* This might be viewed as simply trading one form of slavery for another. However, being a slave of sin leads to death, while being a slave to God leads to eternal life (Romans 6:23).

Liberty

Liberty can be defined as “permission to go freely within specified limits.” God knows for man’s own good what his limits should be. Psalm 119:44-45 states *“So shall I keep Your law continually, forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.”* Here, *“at liberty”* means “in a wide place.” God’s law is not oppressive or a burden on those who keep it. Instead, it is liberating. According to 1 John 5:3, *“His commandments are not burdensome.”* James refers to the gospel as *“the perfect law of liberty”* (1:25, 2:12). In Luke 4:17-21, Jesus said that He was sent to *“proclaim liberty.”*

Justice

“Righteousness” and “the quality of being impartial or fair” are two definitions of justice. Moses describes God as one who shows no partiality, takes no bribes, and administers justice for the fatherless and the widow (Deuteronomy 10:17-18). *“For all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He”* (Deuteronomy 32:4). Romans 3:25-26 describes how Jesus’ death on the cross satisfies the requirements of justice, thereby enabling God to forgive us of our sins.

Equality

God is impartial and fair in His dealings with mankind. All are treated equally. As Peter said in Acts 10:34-35, *“In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”* Jesus taught His disciples that there is to be equality in His kingdom. It comes through serving one another (Matthew 20:25-28).

Finally, all are made equal with regard to salvation, where true freedom, liberty, and justice are found. *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus”* (Galatians 3:26-28).