

by Kyle Pope

but also from the problem of sin that resulted from law with no ultimate sacrifice. While modern man has never been under Mosaic Law, all are **“under law toward Christ”** (1 Corinthians 9:21). This problem of sin with no sacrifice granting ultimate forgiveness is faced by all who live outside of Christ. Only in Christ can freedom from sin be found.

2. The Gospel Brings Freedom from Sin. We imagine that if we could only do whatever we want we would be truly free, but Jesus explained, **“whoever commits sin is a slave of sin”** (John 8:34b). True freedom doesn't rest in unrestrained behavior, but in service to Christ. Jesus went on to say, **“if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed”** (John 8:36). Sin is the violation of God's law (1 John 3:4), the failure to do good as revealed in God's law (James 4:17), or acting with doubt (Romans 14:23). The consequence of sin is spiritual death, which is separation from fellowship with God (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2). To die in sin is to remain eternally separated from God in eternal punishment (2 Thessalonians 1:9-10).

Only Christ offers deliverance from sin through obedience to the gospel. Paul told the Romans, **“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin”** (Romans 6:5-7). In baptism one is **“united together”** with Christ **“in the likeness of His death.”** We die to our old sins that we might be **“freed from sin.”** Yet, this freedom brings responsibility. Paul continued, **“And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness”** (Romans 6:18-20). To enjoy freedom as a citizen of the United States carries responsibilities. We must obey its laws, honor its leaders, and pay taxes to support it. So it is in Christ. Yes, we must obey the Law of Christ, but all that it demands of us (as with all Divine Law), is **“for our good always”** (Deuteronomy 6:24). The Christian has, **“been set free from sin,”** we **“become slaves of God,”** and **“have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life”** (Rom. 6:22). This leads us to recognize another liberty that comes in Christ...

3. The Gospel Brings Freedom from Death. When man first sinned, it separated him from fellowship with God – spiritual death (Genesis 2:17). All who have followed this example have suffered the same consequence (Romans 5:12). Yet, in addition to this, a consequence of Adam's sin has been a life deprived of access to the tree of life in a world of pain, disease, decay, and ultimately physical death (Genesis 3:16-24). The resurrection of Christ paved the way for those saved in Christ one day to attain liberation from pain, decay, and death itself. Paul wrote, **“if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you”** (Romans 8:11). Can you imagine a life free of pain, illness, and the loss of loved ones? Paul taught, **“the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God”** (Romans 8:21). Those outside of Christ will also experience a resurrection on the Day of Judgment, but it will be a **“resurrection of condemnation”** (John 5:29). This will not be liberation from corruption, but an eternal sentence to the **“bondage of corruption.”** Only Christ offers liberty from death.

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