

Freedom in Christ

(January 26, 2020, By Rev. Luís Moreno)

The definition of freedom in Christ: the ability to make or realize what you want, while always honoring God.

Freedom in Christ means producing fruits of righteousness through a lifestyle that is guided by the Holy Spirit of God.

1. Galatians 5:1,13-15

Stand^[a] fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Because this is the freedom that is only acquired through Christ since the redemptive work done by the Messiah on the Cross made us acquire that freedom.

2. Isaiah 61:1-3

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me,
Because the LORD has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to ^[a]heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;

² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,

³ To ^[b]console those who mourn in Zion,
To give them beauty for ashes,
The oil of joy for mourning,
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

That they may be called trees of righteousness,
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

3. John 8:31-36

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

4. Luke 4:18

“The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to *the* poor;
He has sent Me ^[a]to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives
And recovery of sight to *the* blind,
To set at liberty those who are ^[b]oppressed;

Here in the world there is also a freedom that people use, like the popular phrase that is heard, that speaks about this freedom and says: “I am free to do whatever I want.”

This is a freedom without restrictions, without law, without respecting the authorities, and there are no responsibilities in the midst of it, but it is a freedom that is very contrary to freedom in Christ, which every Christian who faithful to God should practice in their daily life.

This type of worldly freedom makes people to be slaves to the evil desires of their own flesh, which produces destruction in the person practicing this type of freedom.

5. John 10-10.

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Why? Because that freedom is not freedom from everything; rather, it is the slavery of the desires of the sinful nature. When this freedom is practiced, it produces negative fruits in a person's life.

6. Galatians 5:16-21

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: ^[a]adultery, ^[b]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, ^[c]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

In contrast, the Biblical viewpoint of freedom in Christ is described in **Galatians 5:1,24**: The Christian who is faithful to the Gospel or the Word of God has been made free of the slavery to sin because those who are of Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (**5:24**), and the fruit of their genuine spiritual freedom in Christ are the fruit of the Spirit.

6. Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ ^[a]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Therefore, exercise yourself in your freedom in Christ. In the end, you decide whether you want to be free in the Spirit or go back to the yoke of slavery.

7. 1 Peter 2:15-16.

¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— ¹⁶ as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for ^[a]vice, but as bondservants of God.

What is the freedom that you are practicing?

Is it a freedom that gives an occasion for the flesh, or is it honestly spiritual? Therefore, in this crucial hour of your life, choose freely to say no to sin and yes to God. This is a privilege that Christ gave to His church.

To conclude, when the Holy Spirit of God takes control of our lives, we apply this privilege to our lives, and this freedom in Christ should produce the following in us:

- A) Love, peace, joy (which are internal qualities in us)
- B) Patience, kindness, goodness (which are external qualities in us)
- C) faith, gentleness, and self-control (which are qualities from God in us)
- D) Freedom in Christ for those who were prisoners of Satan

Luke 4:18

John 8:16

¹⁶ And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I *am* with the Father who sent Me.

E) Freedom from sin.

Romans 6:7-14.

⁷ For he who has died has been afreed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, breckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³ And do not present your members as cinstruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

F) Freedom by the Spirit of Life

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who^[a] do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

In conclusión, brothers and sisters, we have to use our freedom to honor God with our body, soul, and spirit and subsequently walk in this freedom in Christ.

Romans 10:8-10

⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2 Chronicles 7:14

¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

1 John 1:8-10.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.