



## SERMON NOTES

### A Christian's Declaration of Independence

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Intro.

Freedom is a precious thing. It is not easily won, but it is easily lost.

Understanding the nature of one's spiritual freedom is central to living a fruitful, filled life.

"Freedom is destroyed not only by its retraction; it is also devastated by its abuse." — *Ravi Zacharias*

#### I. FREEDOM: HOW DID WE GET IT?

##### **Romans 1:20-21 (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

##### **Romans 3:23 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

##### **Romans 5:8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

##### **Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

##### **Romans 5:1-2 (NIV)**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

#### II. FREEDOM: HOW DO WE LOSE IT?

Mistake #1: Thinking the law has no value.

##### **Romans 6:1-7 (NIV)**

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin.

Christian freedom doesn't mean we have the freedom to sin...it means we now have the freedom to choose not to sin

Mistake #2: Placing too much value on the law.

The law is there to reveal our need for a savior. It can never make us righteous.

**Romans 7:1 (NIV)**

*Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives?*

**Romans 7:4-6**

*<sup>4</sup> So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. <sup>5</sup> For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. <sup>6</sup> But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.*

**Romans 6:14: (NASB)**

*"For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace."*

Why put yourself under something that has no authority over you, and can neither save nor sanctify you?

III. FREEDOM: WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?

1.) Use your Freedom to choose holiness.

**Romans 6:16 (NIV)**

*You are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness.*

Holiness is more than running away from sin...it is running towards God.

2.) Use your freedom to promote unity.

**Romans 14:1-4 (NIV)**

*<sup>1</sup> Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. <sup>2</sup> One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.*