



## VERBATIM: Freedom

Romans 8:1-12

Read Romans 8:1-12 together:

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

### One Source of Freedom: Romans 8:1-5

- ? How would you define freedom? Is freedom absolute or subjective? Explain your answer.
- ? What does it mean to be free in Christ? Doesn't salvation require us to live in submission? How is that freedom? Isn't it more freeing to live by one's own standard rather than to live under a predetermined standard? Why or why not?
- ? If we're set free by Christ according to John 8:31-36, are we still free to sin? Or, does our sin show us that we really aren't free? Can one sin and still have freedom? Why or why not?

*"God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it. If in His absolute freedom God has willed to give man limited freedom, who is there to stay His hand or say, 'What doest thou?' Man's will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so."*

*The Knowledge of the Holy  
– A.W. Tozer*

### **One Source of Confusion: Romans 8:5-8**

- ? What does it mean to “set your mind according to the flesh”? What consequences have you experienced having your mind set in the wrong place?
- ? Can morality be legislated? If biblical truth is not the standard of morality, what standard is being used? How can a subjective standard lead to destruction?
- ? Read Romans 1:25: *“because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”*
  - o Why would anyone exchange the truth for a lie?
  - o Is it possible to see deception coming and avoid it? If it is, then why do so many people still fall for the deception?
- ? What does it mean to have a biblical worldview? How does a biblical worldview shape your decision-making? Is it possible to agree to disagree with someone who holds a completely different worldview than yours? Why or why not?
- ? In what ways can “the voice of confusion” enter our church and disrupt the truth?

*“And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.”*

2 Corinthians 11:14–15

### **One Source of Victory: Romans 8:9-12**

- ? What Scripture do you turn to the most in times of trouble?
- ? How does faith play a role in freedom?
- ? How can we live with confidence that there is only one way to truth? Don't other religions claim the same thing? What makes Christianity different?
- ? Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18.
  - o How does the Spirit of the Lord bring us freedom?
  - o How can one determine if it is the Spirit of the Lord speaking rather than the Enemy disguising himself as an Angel of Light?
- ? What is progressive Christianity? How is it a threat to the true church?
- ? Can one hold to the truths of the Bible and still be inclusive? Why or why not?

*“This is the fix we are in. If the universe is not governed by an absolute goodness, then all our efforts are in the long run hopeless. But if it is, then we are making ourselves enemies to that goodness every day, and are not in the least likely to do any better tomorrow, and so our case is hopeless again. We cannot do without it, and we cannot do with it. God is the only comfort, He is also the supreme terror: the thing we most need and the thing we most want to hide from. He is our only possible ally, and we have made ourselves His enemies. Some people talk as if meeting the gaze of absolute goodness would be fun. They need to think again. They are still only playing with religion.”*

*Mere Christianity*  
– C.S. Lewis