



# CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

## Los Angeles

Dgroup Discussion Guide  
July 6, 2014

### Word:

***“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “if you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered Him; “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that you say, “you will become free”? Jesus answered them, “truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”*** **John 8:31-36**

If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed – but what is freedom?

A slave is not free because he belongs to his master and can only do the things his master tells him to do. If you are not a slave then you are free to do whatever you want to do. So what did Jesus mean that we will be free?

There is a condition to the freedom offered by Jesus – He said that we have to be His disciples and as His disciples we are to abide in Him, which means that we are to remain in God’s Word. He continues to say that if we spend time in the word of God, then we will know the truth and know the true Word, who is Jesus Christ. And it is this truth that will set us free.

In the mind of the Jews, they have always been free. They had never been imprisoned but they were enslaved by sin and enslaved by the law. They were enslaved by their religion. They believed that obeying the law was the only way for them to go to heaven. Cursed are you to obey the whole law to fulfill it. This means that we should be able to obey the law 100%, 100% of the time. This is the slavery of religion. It is a set of Do’s and Don’ts in order that you may get to heaven. Religion says ‘do’. Jesus Christ says “Done.”

So in essence, we are either a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness. But being a slave to sin is temporary -- we can be freed by the Son. And if we are freed by the Son, then we are freed indeed. Because true freedom comes *through, with and in* Jesus Christ.

***“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: **sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”***** (Romans 8:1-5) It was Jesus who took the condemnation for our sin. God doesn’t change His mind. Sin had to be paid its wages – which is death. God did not break His own law, rather He fulfilled His law by having His Son Jesus Christ to take the form of a human being to pay for our sins. That is why it is only through Jesus Christ that we have forgiveness and redemption of our souls.

***“for the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*** (Romans 8:6-8) This the truth about us – the irony is that more often than not we are not even aware of it. The flesh and the spirit is always going in opposite directions. The flesh will continue to rationalize but all these rationalization will boil down to just one thing – sin. No matter what we chose to call it, it is sin. Apart from Christ, we are left only with sin because it is our nature. This is the reason why we need to be set free, this is the reason why we need a Savior.

*With freedom comes responsibility.*

Galatians 5:1 says *“It was for freedom that Christ set us free therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”* Jesus has already paid for our sins. We are now free from the law and death. We are now free from the spirit of life in Christ

Jesus – we should stand firm and refuse to go back. Let us now succumb to going back to our life of slavery to sin, but instead let us live for God.

There is a warning we should heed: *“for you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another”*. (Galatians 5:13) Do not use your freedom to continue to indulge in your sinful nature just because Christ has already paid for it. We are called to a life of freedom, but with this freedom comes responsibility. Some people take the grace of God and trample on the sacrifice that Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross. We are to turn away from sin and turn to God. In the book of Jude it says *“certain persons have crept unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

Some people think that just because Jesus has already paid for our sins, it gives them a “get out of jail” card or a license to sin. They are mis-using the grace of God in thinking that they can continue to sin because through Jesus all our sins – past, present and future have been forgiven. This is an abuse of God’s grace and mercy.

But Paul encourages us in Romans 6:14-18 *“For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slave of the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”*

It is because of the freedom we have in Christ that we have these:

#### FREE TO GIVE

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 *“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

In the Old Testament the requirement was to give a tenth but the freedom we have in Christ allows us to give more than what is required out of the abundance of our hearts.

#### FREE TO LOVE

Romans 13:8-10 *“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, “you shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

1 Peter 2:16 *“ Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.”*

We are free to love, we are free to love even our enemies. We are given the freedom to love as Christ loves us. It is this freedom to love that that will allow us to live harmoniously with others. Because if we love then we will not covet, we will not murder, we will not steal, or even commit adultery. Being able to experience the love of God will make it easier for us to love our neighbors and even our enemies.

#### FREE TO OBEY

John 14:15 *“ if you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”*

John 14:21 *“ he who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him”*

We are no longer under requirement but motivated to obey out of love for God. Jesus says IF you love Me, you will keep My commandments. God’s love language is obedience. It is through our obedience to Him that He draws near to us. The more we obey,

the deeper our relationship with God will become. The more we obey, the more intimate we become with God. The more we obey, the more we will feel God's presence in our lives.

## FREE TO WORSHIP

Romans 12: 1 *"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."*

It is through our united love for God that we are free to worship Him not only on Sundays, but every day – making worship a part of our lifestyle.

## FREE TO SERVE

Galatians 5:13 *"For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."*

We are called to serve – serve God, serve the church and serve our family . . . freely.

If we exercise our freedom in Christ Jesus, then we can become the light of the world. . . a beacon to those in the darkness, so that they will know that there can be freedom if we come to Jesus and accept His invitation to enter into His light.

True Freedom can only be achieved if we follow and obey Jesus. It is then that we can experience that true freedom G.L.O.W.S.

## Works: Journaling task

1. Have I personally experienced freedom in Christ Jesus?
2. How am I exercising my freedom today?
3. After understanding what true freedom in Christ Jesus is – how do I plan to exercise my freedom?
4. Have I allowed my light to shine or am I hiding beneath closed doors and covers?