

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

29 June 2025

Finding Freedom in Christ

Text: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8.
Freedom, we all like freedom.

We all like to think we are free to do as we please.

I like the idea that we do not live in a vacuum.

We all serve someone or something.

If we are not serving God then we are serving Satan.

If we are destined to serve something then why not God?

When I came here there was a banner up front that said, Free in Christ is free indeed.

Someone took it down.

I liked it and commented about it.

I do not know if they were afraid of me being to free or what but it was soon gone.

Free in Christ is free indeed!

I believe that.

When you submit to Christ then you begin to live in freedom.

How do lowly humans fellowship with God, the perfect one?

I hope you know the answer.

When we are one in Jesus his righteousness becomes our righteousness.

We are made acceptable to God through the sacrifice of Jesus The Christ, the Son of the Living God.

This is how the sons of men become the sons of God.

God gave us a will.

We can determine what we do and why we do it.

The higher the ambition God held for humans, the greater became the problem introduced by free will.

In order to form character in people, God had to take terrible risks.

He had to leave people the choice of good or evil.

That was both humanity's great opportunity and humanity's occasion for falling.

The Bible attributes people's sins to their willful abuse of their God-given freedom of choosing the basic course and character of their lives.

Paul, in writing to the Roman Christians, outlined the truth concerning humanity's plight as sinners in *Romans 1:18-25*.

The seriousness of sin.

Sin involves the total being of people.

Sin involves not just the physical side of people's lives.

Sin is more than a mental condition.

Sin is in the heart of people, at the very center of selfhood.

The New Testament's appraisal of sin in people.

Sin in the "flesh" describes living apart from God.

Sin in "your bodies" means sin in your personal being.

Sin in the "soul" is also referring to oneself, or person.

That the soul, or person, sinning "shall die" is a warning to the total person.

Sin is serious, for it involves the total person.

People do not have in themselves the strength to solve their problems.

Their whole beings are adversely affected.

Sin invades their thinking, their will, their sense of values, their natural responses, and their relationships.

Slavery to sin.

In people's expressions of self-will, they lose their freedom.

From trusting God to self-trust.

From obeying God to self-assertion.

From serving God to slavery to sin.

In sinning people bring community under the dominion of sin.

Sin snatches and exercises lordship over people.

Living is described as serving either "good" or "evil".

People's acts have repercussions beyond the sensations they momentarily feel.

Their acts are testimonies for God or for Satan.

The constant plea of the New Testament is for people to "serve God" and thus find the liberation for which people were created.

When sin is served, human-kind's true destiny is denied, their created role is forfeited, and they fall under the bondage of sin and death.

The surrender to sin.

Humanity's surrender of "sonship" to God brings into light their personal responsibility for guilt.

The Bible holds people guilty for their own sins.

Sin is not the responsibility of past generations.

People are responsible for the actions of the group of which they are a part.

People are guilty for the environment they help create.

We speak of my country, my city, my home.

No person lives to self; living is influencing.

People face their sin alone.

Humanity's problem is sin.

People may have many problems in life, such as problems in finiteness, fate, and function.

They are plagued with involvement in the material aspect of their lives and by their ignorance.

When all is said, humanity's plight, however, is one of sin.

The Bible holds people guilty for their sin.

People and people alone stand responsible and in total solitude to face their sin.

To meet this condition, there came the "Good News."

When people are willing to admit that sin is their own and theirs alone, the Savior will bear it.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Especially you!

Will you admit your condition and God's solution?

Confess to God and allow Him through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to remedy your condition.

Then you change direction from death to life!

For: to love for God is true freedom.

Freedom in Christ; is free indeed!

Let's be free to live and love as Jesus did.

Doing the will of the Father and serving each other.