Todays Sermon is - What does it mean to have freedom in Christ?

### Acts.

**2**When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Lets visualize this. Sitting in a room above a dwelling. All talking about what has happened since Jesus was around. Sharing how things were now that He has gone, but He did say He was going to send the Comforter, in fact He did say, Unless I go He wont come…. Then……

**2**Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**3**They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

**4**All of them were, filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2%3A1-13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26954a)] as the Spirit enabled them.

If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that Pentecost was one of the Jewish feast days. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the **Feast of Harvest** or **the Feast of Weeks**. It is mentioned five places in the first five books—in [Exodus 23](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=ex+23), [Exodus 24](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=ex+24), [Leviticus 16](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=le+16), [Numbers 28](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=nu+28), and [Deuteronomy 16](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=de+16).

It was the celebration of the **beginning** of the **early weeks** of **harvest.** (Repeat this – explain this as the church today. We are to prepare for the **beginning** **weeks** prior to the **Harvest**

\*The **purpose of Pentecost** then is the **introduction of God doing something He has never done before, that of filling the believer with the Holy Spirit.** The **purpose** is that we become witness to **His** **character, presence, power, and authority.**

OK, now Let us look at

**the freedom as**[**Christians**](https://carm.org/what-is-a-real-christian)**that we have in Jesus.**

Before I do that, I need to speak to you about

**The Law**.

Some Church groups, of whom I wont mention (their names), live under a set of laws and social expectations that can be absolutely smothering.

This is because when a person’s salvation **is tied** to

**their behavior**, **their attitude**, **their appearance**, a following **set of rules**, attributed to them, there can be **little freedom to live, to make mistakes, and to grow.**

Instead, they **live in fear.**

The result is living in a Church system where **appearance** is important, where **failure i**s looked down upon, and where your **social status** depends on your **outward godliness**.

In such churches, people will put on a **good** face, a **proper** smile, and not really share **serious issues** in their lives.

Such attitudes **are ungodly**.

It’s a great thing that Jesus loves us in spite of **what we are**, in spite of our **imperfections.**  Jesus does not love us because of our **appearance**, or because we can keep ourselves from **sinning,** or because we have it **all together**, or because we **are sincere**.

Instead, he loves us because of who ***he* is**, not because of who ***we* are.**

# 1 John 4:19 New International Version (NIV)

**19**We love because he first loved us.

The nature of love is to give

**John 3:16** New International Version (NIV)

**16**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Love is not self-centered but at times can be sacrificial

**John 15:13** New International Version (NIV)

**13**Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

God loves us because of Him, not because of us.

When we love God, it is a response to His first loving us.

And just as a parent's love is not conditioned on the performance of the child, neither is God's love for us conditioned on ours.

But, whenever there is a religious system that fails to stand on the true gospel **the loving sacrifice of Christ *alone***, then there is no true indwelling of God.

And, because He is not really living inside of the person, the person has to keep the Laws and ordinances to make up the difference.

He or she has to perform properly, has to do right, and maintain that lifestyle in order to be accepted fully as a proper, spiritually mature person.

That is why religious groups that preach a **false gospel** will replace the truth with **regulations**.

They do so because they don't understand that the **regulations**, those laws of purity that they must keep to be acceptable to one another and to God, **reveal their lack of** **true freedom in Christ**.

There is a simple principle found in Scripture that is applicable here.

**1 Timothy 1:9** New International Version (NIV)

**9**We also know that the law is made **not for the righteous** but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, etc…

Try to consider the Law as an external set of rules that guide us through life.

True Christians are not obligated to keep the Laws of God in order to be forgiven of their [sins](https://carm.org/what-is-sin).

If that were the case, then salvation would be based on our **ability**.

It would also mean that God would be showing favoritism by **"saving"** someone who has been **"good enough."**

Instead, the Law is a **guide for the true Christian**.

The Law helps us when we have doubts about what to do or not to do.

But it is not our keeping the Law that makes us right before God - or before each other.

[**Romans 3:28**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom%203.28)

For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law

[**Romans 4:5**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom%204.5)

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness

[**Romans 5:1**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom%205.1)

Therefore, having been **justified by (WHAT?) faith**, we have **(WHAT?)** peace with God through **(WHOM?)** our **Lord Jesus Christ (repeat this)**

\*An interesting point here –

**Justification** is the **condition** of being **righteous** before God **according to the Law**.

But when we are Christians, we are indwelt by Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit whom we received on our conversion

**John 14:23** New International Version (NIV)

**23**Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

 He lives in us - and because he does, we don't need that law.

Because we have Him.

\*That’s not to say that it’s okay to break the Law of God.

We should not steal. We should not to lie. WE should not murder. Etc..

But when Christ lives in us (through the Holy Spirit) and when we experience **His love** and **His presence**, then we keep the Law because the **love of God flows out of our hearts.**

**Loving God and loving our neighbor is the fulfillment of the Law**

#  Matthew 22:37-40 New International Version (NIV)

**37**Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your minda

**38**This is the first and greatest commandment.

**39**And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.

**40**All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

**Freedom in Christ**

[**Luke 4:18**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke%204.18)

the spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed.

[**John 8:32**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%208.32)**,**

and you will know the truth, and the truth will **(WHAT?)** make you free.

[**John 8:36**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%208.36),

So if the Son makes you free, you will be **(WHAT?)** **free indeed**.

[**Acts 13:38-39**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Acts%2013.38-39),

Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is **proclaimed to you**,

39 and through Him everyone who believes is **freed from all things**, from which you could not be freed through the **Law of Moses**.

**Galatians 5:1** New International Version (NIV)

Freedom in Christ

**5**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves **be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.**

One of the signs of being a true Christian, besides believing in the [true gospel](https://carm.org/what-gospel), is experiencing a **sense of freedom.**

We realize that we do not have to keep the Law in order to please God.

We realize that God's favor upon us is not dependent upon our obedience, or our law-keeping.

God's favor upon us is because of what Christ did on the cross. **Therefore, we are free.**

We are free to drink coffee, sip tea, watch a movie, dance, laugh, have a drink, and enjoy life.

Yes, we are free to do these things and other things...**but without sin**.

However, our freedom means that we **must not stumble anyone else.**  We must not abuse our freedom.

We are not to be **careless**.

On the contrary, we are free to live and not have to worry about how our behavior affects God's attitude towards us because his attitude is one of love and acceptance that is guaranteed by the sacrifice of Christ.

But, this is not to say that he won't discipline us if we stray.

After all, God disciplines those whom he loves

**Hebrews 12:6** New International Version (NIV)

**6**because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
    and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.

 So we must be careful not to use our freedom to **stumble** anyone else.

**Romans 14:21-22** New International Version (NIV)

**21**It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

**22**So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves.

**1 Corinthians 8:13** New International Version (NIV)

**13**Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

**Galatians 5:13** New International Version (NIV)

**13**You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5%3A13&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29176a)]; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

These are, in a sense, New Testament laws.

# But think about what they are, Loving God and Loving your neighbor

# Matthew 22:37-40 New International Version (NIV)

**37**Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind

**38**This is the first and greatest commandment.

**39**And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself

**40**All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments

So lets look at Dying with Christ to the Law

There is a concept that many Christians are not aware of.

As Christians, we have died with Christ and therefore we have also died to the Law.

It means that **the Law has no more jurisdiction over us.**

**Romans 7:1**New International Version (NIV)

**7**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** New International Version (NIV)

**4**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.

**Romans 7:6** New International Version (NIV)

**6**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.

**Galatians 2:19-20** New International Version (NIV)

**19**“For through **the law** I died **to the law** so that I might live for God.

**20**I have been **crucified with Christ** and **I no longer live**, but **Christ** **lives in me**. The life I now live in the body, I live **by faith** in **the Son of God,**who loved(s) me and **gave himself for me**.

Because we are "in Christ"

**1 Corinthians 15:22** New International Version (NIV)

**22**For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive

# Romans 6:6 New International Version (NIV)

**6**For we know that our old self was crucified **with him** so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

**Romans 7:4** New International Version (NIV)

**4**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.

The reason that all things are lawful to us as Christians is because we have **died to the Law** and the **Law has no jurisdiction over us**.

**This means we are free**.

We are **free** to try and please God and fail

and realize that our failures do not sever our relationship with Him, nor do they jeopardize our salvation.

We are **free** indeed to succeed and fail.

We are **free** to love God and love our neighbor.

We are **free** to have fun, to not be perfect, to not have to please our friends in church for social acceptance, and achieve spiritual worthiness.

We are **free** to rest in Christ and in our freedom, we can explore what it means to live life and **not live in fear.**

We are **free** from the requirements of the Law and so we are **free** **to rest in Christ**.

**And we ALL know this one**

**Matthew 11:28** New International Version (NIV)

**28**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

**Lets Pray**

*Father God.*

*Again we thank You, that yet again we have been led by Your Holy Spirit to this place. To come freely, to fellowship with our brethren, to Freely Worship You Oh God.*

*Lord, give us a true understanding of what it really means to be* ***FREE****.*

*Father, Free from ridicule, Free from oppression, Free from anxiety, Father, Free from anything that would hold us back from knowing You.*

*Thank You Jesus, that You came and set us free and set us free indeed.*

*Thank you Jesus that You broke us free from the oppression of the Law and Lord Jesus that we are now free under Your Grace which is sufficient for us….Lord, Not because we deserve it, but because Your love for us is so great, that You gave it to us* ***Freely.***

*Blessings to You Oh God. Blessings*

*Amen*