

Freedom from Bondage



Getting Started

Have you ever felt trapped or unable to break free from something? It could be a bad habit or a bad relationship. There are many things that can control us or keep us in bondage.

The people of Israel were held in bondage for many years, first in Egypt and then later in Babylon. Sometimes this was the result of their poor choices and turning away from God. Even so, God didn't turn his back on them. He had a plan for bringing them out of bondage. He has a plan for bringing us out of bondage, too. What is this plan?

Improving Your Vocabulary

bondage (n) - under the control of something; unable to get free

to turn one's back on (idiom) - to ignore/not pay attention to someone/something

descendant (n) - one who follows an older generation of ancestors

slave (n) - one who is in bondage to someone or something

permanently (adv) - forever; not changing

approve of (v phr) - to agree with or have a favorable opinion of

condemnation (n) - judgment, blame or penalty

Reading God's Word

Jesus talked about people's bondage to sin. He then told how he could really set people free.

John 8:31-36

31 So Jesus said to those who believed in him, "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; **32** you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

33 "We are the descendants of Abraham," they answered, "and we have never been anybody's slaves. What do you mean, then, by saying, 'You will be set free'?"

34 Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin. **35** A slave does not belong to a family permanently, but a son belongs there forever. **36** If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free.

Paul also wrote about bondage to sin and freedom through Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:18-19; 7:22-25; 8:1-2

18 I know that good does not live in me – that is, in my human nature. For even though the desire to do good is in me, I am not able to do it. **19** I don't do the good I want to do; instead, I do the evil that I do not want to do.

22 My inner being delights in the law of God. **23** But I see a different law at work in my body – a law that fights against the law which my mind approves of. It makes me a prisoner to the law of sin which is at work in my body. **24** What an unhappy man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is taking me to death?

25 Thanks be to God, who does this through Jesus Christ! This, then, is my condition: on my own I can serve God's law only with my mind, while my human nature serves the law of sin.

1 There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit, which brings us life in union with Christ Jesus, has set me free from the law of sin and death.

For further study, see Romans 8:12-15; Galatians 5:1; Hebrews 2:14-15.

Taking a Closer Look

1. What was Jesus trying to stress to those who believed? What do you think he meant by truth and freedom? (John 8:31-32)

2. Why were the people confused about what Jesus said? (John 8:31-33)

3. What is the difference between a slave and a son according to Jesus? (John 8:35)

4. Who can make us really free? (John 8:36)

5. What was Paul's problem? Can you relate to this problem? (Romans 7:18-24)

6. How was Paul "in bondage"? (Romans 7:23-24)

7. Who did Paul say could set him free? (Romans 7:24-8:2)

8. Who are the ones free from condemnation and the law of sin and death? (Romans 8:1-2) Do you live in union with Christ?

Taking Action

1. What are some things that keep you in bondage? How have you tried to break away from that bondage before?
2. If you haven't started a relationship with Jesus yet, you can begin today! Invite him into your life and ask his Spirit to take control.

Memory Verse: Romans 8:6

To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace.

Review the Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with the correct vocabulary words.

1. He is a _____ to alcohol and drugs. So I choose to stay away from him.
2. Her parents don't _____ the way she dresses.
3. The prisoners were kept in _____ for many years.
4. The message is _____ written there for future generations to see.
5. You shouldn't _____ him. That will make him feel like no one cares.



This English Bible teaching material is prepared and owned by ORTV, Inc.
It may be reproduced for classroom or personal use but may not be published or sold.