



You Are Free to Be Yourself

1. Free - not *by* yourself 2. Set free - by the Son

Sermon Notes John 8:31-36.

What does it mean when a church sign invites, “Come as you are?”

Who were the people Jesus addressed in these verses?

Why did these Jews take offense to Jesus’ truthful statement that they needed to be set free?

Their claim: “We are _____’s _____
and have never been _____ of _____.”

According to Jesus’ words, what “master” enslaves us?

What man linked with Reformation Sunday was keenly aware of his enslavement before God that led him on a journey for truth?

Who and what alone can set us free from the slavery of sin?

For what has Jesus set us free?

Growth Group Study Guide

For the week of November 3, 2019



Opening Prayer Suggestion: CW Hymn 102: 1&3

My Story:

What messages on church signs have caught your attention? Why?

What message does the church sign, “*Come as you are*” convey?

What message may it not want to convey?

Digging In: John 8:31-36.

Context: You may wish to read or scan vv. 12-30 to catch the spirit of this conversation between Jesus and the Jews.

What tension did you discover?

Do you think that the Jews in v. 30 are the same group whom Jesus addresses in v. 31? Why or why not?

Why did the Jews vehemently object to Jesus’ words about being set free?

Discuss Jesus’ mini parable of v.35 about a slave vs. a son. What’s the main point?

How does the Son alone set people free?

Note: v.31 Jesus says “the *truth* will set you free.” In v. 36 Jesus says “If the *Son* sets you free.” Discuss the implications of his words.

Bible Connections:

If you have time, read Romans 6. Note the connection between baptism and spiritual freedom. See how many expressions or phrases describe God's action of setting us free. See how many phrases express living under our new master, not the old.

After that chapter, Paul goes on to describe the bitter struggle he still has with his sinful nature - almost as if chapter six's spiritual liberation didn't happen.

But to what does he return in 7:24 & 25?

Going on to chapter 8 1-4?

Read also Galatians 5:1 & 13. In the larger setting of that book, what was threatening their spiritual freedom Christ won for them?

Application:

The Jews claimed Abraham as their pedigree for never being slaves of anyone. Was that true?

What pedigrees or backgrounds, religious or otherwise, do people hold up today to object to Jesus' words about needing to be set free—by the truth, by Jesus?

What are similar dangers for us?

Luther once said, “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all.” What did he mean?

How is being “a servant of all” lived out in the setting of our church family?

Closing Prayer Thought: Thank Jesus for teaching us the truth, for setting us free from sin and condemnation himself and for opening our minds and hearts to receive the truth as he reveals it.