



## SESSION 3 | FREEDOM IS JESUS

At Freedom Church, we think Jesus is a big deal.

*"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – Jesus. (John 14:6)*

**He is the WAY** in which we should live. Christ's example in the gospels shows us how we should go about changing the world around us. He shows us how we should love the lost, He shows us how to love our enemies. The early church lived so differently; they were known as "The Way." He, Jesus is the path, He is the WAY!

**He is the TRUTH!** Jesus is perfect theology. All truth points to Him. All truth proceeds from Him. He sets the record straight on who the Father is. He is the summary of all of the covenants. He is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. TRUTH has a name, it's Jesus!

CORE FAITH:

We are saved and transformed by Christ's righteousness alone!

Read: Eph 2:8-9

**He is the LIFE!** Jesus is the fountain of Life! His promises are to bring us life and life abundantly. God cares about the whole being, body, soul and spirit! It's our joy to discover and walk in that "abundant life." Freedom is Jesus. Jesus is the LIFE!

After Christ's successful mission on Earth (the incarnation) through His life, death, burial, and resurrection; He ascended to Heaven and has been given ALL AUTHORITY! **Jesus showed us who the Father is and through faith in Him alone, has given us eternal life!**

### NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES!

After His resurrection, Christ appeared to the disciples, telling them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." He then gave what we now call "The Great Commission" to go and make disciples of Jesus!

We see, after Christ ascended, He sat down at the right hand of the Father and now makes intercession for the saints, ruling as King in heaven, preparing a bride (the Church) for His return to the Earth! (Heb 4:14-16)

### JESUS SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT WHO GOD TRULY IS!

On the mount of transfiguration, both Moses and Elijah appear with JESUS, with Moses representing the law, and Elijah representing the prophets. After Moses and Elijah disappear and only Jesus is remaining, a voice from Heaven (the Father) says in the presence of the disciples, "**This is my Son, listen to Him.**" (Matt 17:1-13)



We no longer follow the Law or the Old Testament prophets, we follow Jesus!

“For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17

For some of Israel and the Jews, the Father was a mystery. Much of the stories they passed down had various ideas about who the Father was. When asked by the disciples to “Show us the Father”

Jesus replied, “**If you’ve seen ME, you’ve seen the Father.**”

The Father is like Jesus, and Jesus is like the Father. They are one. We too must understand the Father through the revelation and character of Jesus!

“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the ***glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.***” 1 Cor 4:6

### A HIGH VIEW OF CHRIST!

It’s imperative for Christians in modern times to have what theologians would label “a high Christology” or a high view of Christ. When we have a low view of Christ, we often misinterpret the application of Scripture and, worse, we risk misunderstanding who God really is.

#### HOW JESUS CHANGED EVERYTHING!

- HE JUSTIFIED US :** Christ Justified us before the Father. His price on the cross took all our sin. Faith in Him allows us to live “just as if I’ve never sinned.” (Isai 53:11;Acts 13:38-39;Rom 3:23-24)
- HE RECONCILED US:** Christ has reconciled us to the Father. Where our sin once kept us from God, faith in Christ gives us access to relationship once again! (Heb 2:17; Rom 5:10)
- HE BOUGHT OUR REDEMPTION:** Christ “bought us back” to our true identity as children of God. He “redeemed us” by His own blood. (Matt 20:28;1 Tim 2:5-6)
- HE FULFILLED THE LAW:** Christ declared, “It is finished.” He fulfilled the law of Israel by becoming the perfect sacrifice, once and for all, ushering in the New Covenant! (Matt 5:17)
- HE DEFEATED DEATH:** Christ’s conquering of death, means He now holds the keys of eternal life. He stands at the door of eternity! (Rev 1:18, 2 Tim 1:10)
- HE SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT :** He promised it would be better when He leaves, because He would send the Holy Spirit to be IN US! (John 16:7)
- HE STARTED THE CHURCH:** Christ began the “new nation” of the Church, which now includes Gentiles. He is coming back for the Church He started! (Eph 5:26)

LOW VIEW OF CHRIST	HIGH VIEW OF CHRIST
Often reverts to self-righteousness.	Repents to faith in Christ’s righteousness.
All Scripture (Old and New Testaments) has the same authority and is often used improperly. (such as invoking Levitical law that Christ already fulfilled)	All Scripture (Old and New Testaments) is profitable but has varying authority because of the work of Christ. (the “new wineskin”)
Confusing and conflicting theology on the character of God the Father.	Clear theology of who the Father is in the face of Jesus Christ.
Misunderstandings of judgements & God’s dealings with nations.	Jesus is the judge.
Often reverts back to Judaic law in search for deeper truths and “freedom.”	Sees Christ properly as the fulfillment of the law, prophets & traditions.
Flat study of the scripture. God is contained and confined in the pages.	Studies the scripture through the lens of Christ, by the Holy Spirit. God is revealed in the pages.
The New Testament is the “new law.”	Christ is the New Covenant. (The law is now on our hearts)
It is almost finished	“It is finished.”



## GOD IS DOING A “NEW THING”

Jesus is the “new thing” God prophesied! Following Him is the “new wineskin” for the new wine of His Spirit! He birthed the Church as the new wineskin of the new covenant. There is no need to go backwards. In Christ, “who the Son sets free, is free indeed!”

## JESUS OFFERS FREEDOM FROM THE SLAVERY OF SIN & FALSE RELIGION!

In Christ’s day, the Jews were bound by all kinds of religious laws and traditions. This was the “yoke” of the law, or what the law required. A yoke is used to bind two oxen together to plow fields, it was placed over the oxen’s shoulders. To describe the law as a “yoke” was to say it was a heavy burden. **Jesus**



**offers those bound in religious law and the slavery of sin, the “easy yoke” of faith in Himself! To be “yoked” with Jesus is freedom!**

*“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am <sup>[a]</sup>gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matt 11:28-30*

We revert back to the law when we try to make the New Testament Scriptures a new kind of “Law”, sometimes referred to as “the Law of Christ.” However, Christ gives us the “Law of the Spirit,” which is love expressed through obedience. The New Testament Scriptures guide us to life in the Spirit in joyful obedience, in relationship with God.

Our lives are transformed by grace! Our faith is never to be placed in our performance, but in the work of Christ. When we start to put our faith back in our performance, we disregard the cross and revert back to a law-based paradigm. We can only trust in Jesus. Jesus is Freedom.

CORE FAITH:

The Scriptures must be understood through the lens of what Christ taught in His earthly ministry, what He accomplished on the Cross!

Jesus is Freedom!  
Read: Rom 8:3

In Galatians, Paul talks about not returning to the bondage of false religion that looks to the law!

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” Gal 5:1*



## BEHAVIORAL MODIFICATION VS. HEART TRANSFORMATION

At Freedom Church, we are committed to walking in the freedom Christ offers to us personally and leading as many people as possible to the hope, life and freedom of Jesus. False religion in the name of Christ will only have us modifying our behavior because of fear. Biblical Christianity will have us transformed from the inside out because of love! Transformation happens when we behold Jesus in our lives!

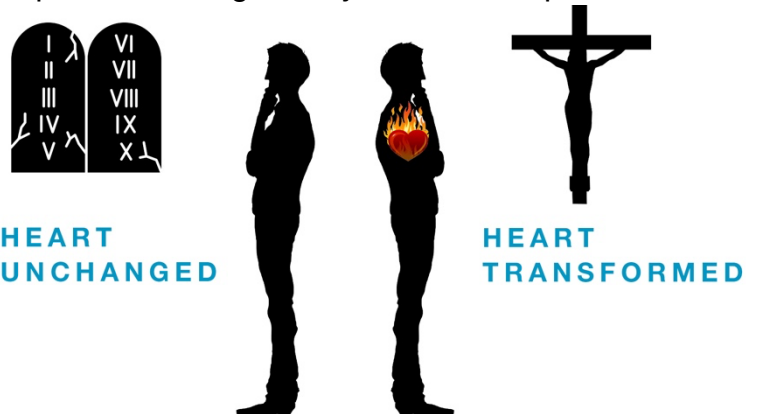
*“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”  
2 Corinthians 3:18*

As we behold Jesus, discovering His love for us in how He relates to us in mercy and grace, discovering Him in the words of Scripture or seeing Him by faith in the Spirit as we worship; we become like Jesus.

### **We become what we behold!**

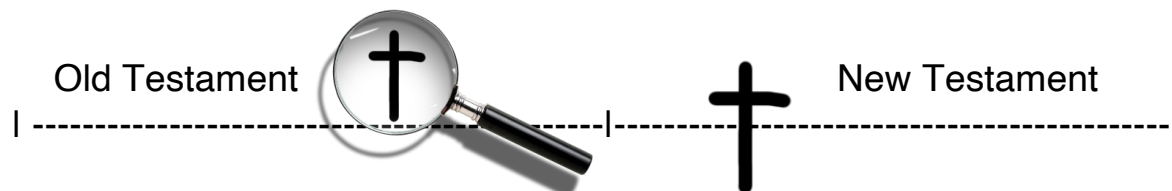
*“...looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”  
Hebrews 12:2*

*“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: <sup>4</sup> That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Rom 8:3-4*



Obedying the Law doesn't make us righteous, what makes us righteous is faith in Christ. The law can serve as a “tutor” to following the Spirit! (Gal 3:24) We know we are following this Spirit when our lives are showing the fruits of the Spirit! (Gal 5:22-23)

## READING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE LENS OF CHRIST



Reading of the Old Testament and Covenants must be studied through the lens of what Christ has done! Good theology must be built upon the work of Christ.

# 4 PILLARS OF FREEDOM

KEY BIBLICAL THEMES AND CONCEPTS THAT SHAPE OUR CHURCH CULTURE



## PRESENCE

"If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here" - Moses. It's the manifest PRESENCE of God with us that should distinguish His church! We value the Presence of the Holy Spirit with us in all things. We must be students of the word AND Spirit. Before people, we foremost desire to host the Presence of God! (Ex 33:15, Acts 1:8, Act 2:17-21)

## GRACE

We are saved by Grace and we are transformed only by Grace. As we grow in "beholding" Jesus, we become what we behold. We see Him in His word, in His grace toward us, in the eyes of the needy and hungry. We see Him as we worship in song and on the mission field. A proper foundation on the true grace of God will always lead to a life of freedom. (Eph 2:8, Titus 3:7, Rom 5:17)

## KINGDOM

"Your Kingdom come, on Earth as it is in Heaven." We are to live as conduits of Heaven on Earth. We pray one reality into another. The Kingdom of God is the domain in which God is fully in charge! We don't have a "retreat until He rescues" mentality but an "occupy until He comes" optimism of faith, hope and love! (Isa. 9:7, Matt 4:23, Matt 24:14)

## FAMILY

"He will set the lonely in families." If we are not a family, God will not entrust us with the spiritually "lonely." At Freedom Church we aim to foster a family environment not only in our love for generations but in how we relate to one another! By serving one another through LOVE, we aim to maintain our connection and preserve the work of the Kingdom!



**Question 1: Why is it important to see the Old Testament through the lens of what Christ has accomplished on the Cross?**

**Question 2: How do we experience heart transformation in Christianity?**