

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

God is Awesome, God is Great, The Lion and the Lamb, Good Good Father

WELCOME

True Freedom. Describe true freedom by giving at least three characteristics of it.

WORD

COLOSSIANS 2:10

"...and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority."

CHRIST IS ALL-SUFFICIENT

God loves us and wants us to experience true freedom. Knowing the truth about Jesus will set us free (**John 8:32**). He is all-sufficient and the one who has set us free from slavery to sin. We are free in Christ because of the following (**Colossians 2:11–15**):

1. **Jesus transformed our heart (v.11).** Physical circumcision is merely a manifestation of what really transpired in the heart. Real circumcision is not of the flesh but of the heart as we commit our lives to Jesus. Salvation is a spiritual circumcision of the heart where our heart is supernaturally transformed with a new desire to do what God wants us to do by His grace and power (**Deuteronomy 30:6**). Because God has transformed our inner lives, we are free to do His will, with delight, and out of our love for Him.
2. **Jesus gave us new life in the picture of baptism (v.12).** Circumcision is connected with baptism. Baptism is the outward response of an inner commitment to surrender our life to God. We are immersed in water to express that we died to our old self. Then, when we are raised from the water pointing to the new life that we have. Baptism is a picture of complete identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. When we come to Christ, we died with Him on the cross and we live with Him in His resurrection. Christianity is not just an overhaul of our old life but a complete transformation with a brand new life. Once we were spiritually dead and could not respond to God, but we are made alive in Christ.
3. **Jesus has forgiven all our sins (v.13–14).** When we were dead in our sins, He made us alive with Him having forgiven us from our sins. The word forgiveness originates from the word grace. By His

grace, Jesus canceled our certificate of debt. He wiped it clean and paid it in full, "tetelestai". Not because we are good and deserving, but because He loves us. Jesus, Himself the Creator and the Son of God, died on the cross to pay for all our sins.

4. **Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities (v.15).**

When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He was victorious over Satan and his demons. He stripped them of their powers, with Satan already concealed in a cage, not having the power to influence us. We have already been set free in Jesus, therefore, we do not have to be afraid of death. We do not have to be enslaved by fear because our life and destiny is already in the hands of God. Sadly, many Christians still draw near to Satan's presence. But since we are already free and protected, we should never go into the enemy's territory. It will only hurt us.

LIVE FREE

Whatever controls us enslaves us. In the time of the Apostle Paul, these practices enslaved people:
Legalism – keeping certain standards for oneself and judging others who do not keep those standards;
Asceticism – imposing man-made rules; severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence to gain favor with God (i.e. celibacy, monasticism, vegetable diet, vow of poverty); **Mysticism** – worship of angels, visions, going through angelic mediators, false humility; **Syncretism** – combining different religions or philosophies to reach God; **Gnosticism** – need for deeper truth for spirituality, salvation is achieved through special knowledge; resulting in licentiousness

Today, modern practices that enslave people will include bitterness, anger, unforgiveness, materialism, approval of men, or addictions on drugs, sex, alcohol, etc.

WORD (cont'd)

True freedom happens not only in doing what we love to do but when what we love to do is what God wants us to do. We are most free and happy with no rules and restrictions when we are following God's design for our lives. But if we violate God's design, we will never experience true freedom but destruction.

Don't be impressed or be deceived. The danger of wrong teaching is that it takes away our focus on Jesus. Be careful when some people say that we need more than Jesus. Jesus is all sufficient. We do not have to live in fear. So, let no one threaten you to be necessarily legalistic as to observing special days, feasts, and food (**v.16**). Do not be coerced or obliged. There are no spiritual points gained by observing one day as more sacred than another. These are mere shadows of what is to come; but the substance of it belongs to Christ (**v.17**).

Instead, in whatever we do, whenever we do it, let us do it unto the Lord (**Romans 14:5-6, 10**).

*It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (**Galatians 5:1**).* Don't make Christianity a list of do's and don'ts. Do things with delight, not out of duty. How will you know if you are free from slavery? People who live free in Christ have joy, peace, restedness, and assurance of salvation. They don't condemn others and are not critical of others. Free people are enthusiastic in serving the Lord. They enjoy Him and they serve people willingly. They do what they do out of the overflow of their love for God and for others.

We are called to freedom, *only* let us not turn it into an opportunity for the flesh but through love let us serve one another (**Galatians 5:13**).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **He Completes Me.** What completes us according to **Colossians 2:10**? Why?
2. **All-Sufficient.** Is Christ all-sufficient in your life? In what ways is this manifested in your life?
3. **Live Free.** In what ways can you encourage a person to live free in Christ?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Share to the people in your pray-care-share list the sufficiency of Christ. Ask them their definition of true freedom then share to them how they can experience true freedom and live free through Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends