

FREEDOM NEEDS BOUNDARIES

From Sinai to the Cross—and into everyday Christian living

“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.” — Galatians 5:1

1. Freedom came before the law

God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt before He gave them the Ten Commandments. The law was not the price of their deliverance; it taught delivered people how to live in covenant with God. They were out of Egypt, but Egypt was still in their thinking. They needed godly boundaries.

The order matters: grace rescued them; God’s commands showed them how to walk in freedom.

2. What the Ten Commandments reveal

Exodus 20 begins with relationship: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt.” The commandments reveal God’s holy character and teach us to love God and love people.

LOVE GOD — COMMANDMENTS 1-4	LOVE PEOPLE — COMMANDMENTS 5-10
No other gods — God must be first	Honor father and mother
No idols — worship God as He is	Do not murder
Honor God’s name	Do not commit adultery
Remember worship, rest, and trust	Do not steal
	Do not lie
	Do not covet

3. What the law can—and cannot—do

- **Reveals** God’s holiness and righteous standard.
- **Identifies** sin and exposes the condition of our hearts.
- **Shows** that no one can make himself righteous by rule-keeping.
- **Points** us to our need for Jesus Christ.

The law is like a mirror: it can show us that we are dirty, but it cannot wash us. “Through the law we become conscious of our sin” (Romans 3:20).

4. Jesus fulfilled what we could never fulfill

Jesus did not abolish God’s law (Matthew 5:17). He lived in perfect obedience, bore our sins on the cross, took the curse our disobedience deserved, and rose victorious. We are saved by grace through faith—not by our ability to keep the commandments. We now obey because we belong to God, not to purchase His love.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS SETS US FREE?

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” — John 8:36

Jesus sets us free from...

- **Sin's guilt** — He bore our sins and paid our debt at the cross.
- **Condemnation** — “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).
- **Sin's controlling power** — sin may still tempt us, but it is no longer our rightful master (Romans 6:6, 14).
- **Our old identity** — in Christ we are washed, adopted, and made new (1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- **Fear of death** — Christ rose again, so death no longer has the final word (Hebrews 2:14–15).
- **Trying to save ourselves** — salvation is God's gift, not a reward for good performance (Ephesians 2:8–9).

“Jesus did not free us to live without a Master. He freed us from a cruel master so we could belong to a good and loving Master.” — See Romans 6:22

How does Jesus set us free?

His perfect life: He fulfilled the law we had broken. **His death:** He took our sin, guilt, and punishment. **His resurrection:** He defeated sin and death. **His Spirit:** He gives us new life and power to obey.

Freedom is not permission to return to bondage

Christian freedom does not mean we will never be tempted, stumble, or face consequences. It means sin no longer owns us. The presence of a battle does not prove we are still slaves; the fight can show that a new Master rules.

Boundaries do not earn our freedom. They help us protect and practice the freedom Jesus purchased.

Paul's tests for Christian freedom

“I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial, constructive, or free from mastery (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23–24). Before exercising a freedom, ask:

- Is it clearly sinful?
- Is it beneficial—will it strengthen my walk with Christ?
- Could it master me?
- Could my example encourage someone else to violate conscience or return to sin?
- Can I do it sincerely for the glory of God?

Love voluntarily limits liberty

Paul would surrender meat or wine rather than cause a brother or sister to fall (1 Corinthians 8:9–13; Romans 14:13, 21). This does not mean every person's preference controls us. A stumbling block is an action that encourages someone to violate conscience, return to bondage, or fall into sin. Love says, “Your soul matters more than my right to do this.”

THE BETTER QUESTION: What will honor Jesus, protect my soul, strengthen my witness, and help the people around me?

TAKE IT WITH YOU: Freedom without godly boundaries becomes bondage. Freedom surrendered to Christ becomes holiness, love, purpose, and peace. Do not rebuild the prison Jesus tore down.



SCAN TO VISIT ROCK SPRINGS OUTREACH ONLINE

Bible studies • Outreach schedule • Prayer and next steps with Jesus