

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are Set Free

April 19, 2015 - Pastor E. Paul Allen

- **Open in prayer.**

- **Introduction**

- Throughout church history, the concept of freedom in Christ has often been distorted by religion and law-based Christianity.
 - o Discuss how law-based Christianity tends to take away your freedom in Christ.
 - o Discuss the statement, *it's not about achieving what I can do, it's about receiving what God has done.*

- **Read Romans 6:22-23.**

- Only Christ can set you free from sin, free from guilt, free from performance, free from comparison, and free from evil. Stop trying and start abiding in the One who sets you free.

- **In Christ, you are set free from the power of sin.**

- **Read and discuss Romans 5:17.**

- Through Adam's sin death reigns in your life.
- Through Christ abundant grace and the free gift of righteousness reigns in your life.
- Discuss how Christ sets us free from sin as seen in the following chart:

Past	Justification	Saved from the penalty of sin.
Present	Sanctification	Saved from the power of sin. (day-by-day)
Future	Glorification	Saved from the presence of sin.

- o Pastor Paul talked about focus. Are you focusing on the One who sets you free from the power of sin or are you focusing on the mile markers (sins, failures, past experiences) in your life.
- o What mile markers keep you from focusing on Christ?
- o What keeps you from enjoying your journey with Christ?
- o Take time to pray for the folks in your group to *receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness* from Christ and allow Him to reign in their lives.

- **In Christ, you can be transformed by the free gift of God.**

- **Read and discuss Romans 6:22-23 (ESV).**

- A bond servant chose to commit their lives to someone. They were identified by a mark so all could see they belonged to that person. God marks us—identifies us—by His love.
- Discuss how God can express His upward, inward, outward love through you on a daily basis as seen in the fruit of the Spirit.

Love	
Joy	Love's song
Peace	Love's rest
Patience	Love's endurance
Kindness	Love's expression
Goodness	Love's character
Faithfulness	Love's habit
Gentleness	Love's touch
Self-control	Love holding the reigns

- **Read and discuss Romans 6:22-23 (The Message)**

- o Discuss how this paraphrase of Romans 6:22-23 expresses the three aspects of salvation—justification, sanctification, and glorification.

- **The Five Characteristics of a Transformer:** Worship | Connect | Serve | Give | Invite



- When we're transformed by God's free gift, we take on the characteristics of Christ.
- As Transformers, we're being saved day-by-day (sanctification) and God continues to develop us into people who reflect His upward, inward, outward love.
 - o Walk through the Five Characteristics and discuss what each one looks like in your life.
- **Soul-Tattoo: Receive Communion. Embrace the Five Characteristics of a Transformer**
 - o Discuss Communion and what it means in your life as a Christ-follower.
 - o Discuss what it looks like for you to embrace the Five Characteristics.
- **Close in prayer.**