

## Celebrate Freedom

Kevin Winn

John 8:31-33 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

- We will never celebrate God's gift of freedom if we already think we are free.
- We are all born slaves to sin.

John 8:34 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

John 8:23-24 But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24** I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Romans 6:20-23 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21... Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ that must be inspired by personal faith. It is both a physical & spiritual declaration and celebration.
- Baptism is a voluntary action for those who <u>have</u> turned from sin and placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:37-38 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" **38** Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

• All Christians are commanded to be baptized.

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

• Baptism is a celebratory act of obedience where we recognize that we died with Christ and will experience resurrection life with Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3-7 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin—7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

John 1:29 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"!

1 Corinthians 5:7 "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed".

Mark 14:22-24 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body." 23 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And he said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant[a] between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread 24 and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you.[f] Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it." 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

• Call or text **YES** to 321.574.6970 if you have chosen to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NLT = New Living Translation.