

# Contagious But Controversial Jesus

Showdown With Jesus in the Gospel of John

“You Might Look Free, But You’re Not!”

Explaining True Freedom

Sun, 24-Jul-2011 / Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa

## John 8:31-36

1. True, biblical freedom starts with belief... but doesn't end there. Believing is “Step 1” to true, biblical freedom in Christ. (John 8:31,32)

“This section of discourse is addressed to those who believe, and yet do not believe.”

Morris, Leon. *The Gospel according to John*. 454.

Remember—not all faith is saving faith. (James 2:19; Matt. 7:21a)

**James 2:19** “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!”

**Matt. 7:21** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven.”

2. True, biblical freedom in Christ is experienced as we continue in “Step 2”: abiding in the Word of God. (John 8:31b,32)

There's true freedom in progressive sanctification—a lifelong process of changing and growing—constantly putting off, being renewed, and putting on (the “put off/put on” principle; cf. Eph. 4:22-24).

PUT OFF (Eph. 4:22) → BE RENEWED (Eph. 4:23) → PUT ON (Eph. 4:24)

3. True, biblical freedom comes along with being made sons of God. We've been adopted! (cf. John 8:34-36)

**Eph. 1:5,6** <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to **adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, **by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.**

**Rom. 8:15** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received **the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”**

“One of the most reassuring aspects of the doctrine of adoption is that it speaks of a permanent relationship. In this way, the biblical doctrine of adoption is analogous to the act of a modern court by which a husband and wife become adoptive parents of children who are not their natural offspring. Whether we are discussing modern-day adoptions or the biblical doctrine of adoption, the change is always a permanent one.”

MacArthur, John. *Slave: The Hidden Truth About Your Identity in Christ*, 150.

“The important term ‘adoption’ bears a relationship to justification in that it is declarative and forensic (inasmuch as it is a legal term). Adoption bestows an objective standing, as justification does: like justification, it is a pronouncement that is not repeated. It has permanent validity. Like justification, adoption rests on the loving purpose and grace of God.”

Everett, Harrison. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Romans*. 93.

**John 8:36** Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

4. True, biblical freedom comes along with being made slaves of God. He is our Master! (cf. Rom. 6:22)

**abide** (*verb*) to wait for; to endure without yielding; to bear patiently; to accept without objection; to remain stable or fixed in a state; to continue in a place; to conform to; to acquiesce in.

**slave** (*noun*) a person held in servitude as the chattel of another; one that is completely subservient to a dominating influence.

“Although the Greek word for “slave” appears 124 times in the original New Testament texts, it is correctly translated only once in the King James Version. Most of our modern translations do only slightly better... While it is true that the duties of slave and servant may overlap to some degree, there is a key distinction between the two: servants are *hired*; slaves are *owned*.”

MacArthur, John. *Slave: The Hidden Truth About Your Identity in Christ*. 20-21.