

### **Slavery & Freedom** by David Nelson, Pastor of Discipleship

God's Word has much to say about slavery and freedom. Jesus says of God's Spirit,

*'He has sent Me to proclaim **freedom** for the prisoners.'* Luke 4:18

And in John's gospel we read this exchange between Jesus and Jews who had believed in Him:

*Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you **free**." 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**?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a **slave** to sin. Now a **slave** has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you **free**, you will be **free** indeed." John 8:31-36*

The Apostle Paul also writes about slavery and freedom in several places,

*... the creation was subjected to frustration... in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious **freedom** of the children of God. (Romans 8:20-21)*

*...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom**.*  
1 Corinthians 3:17

*... false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the **freedom** we have in Christ Jesus and to make us **slaves**.*  
Galatians 2:4

*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



And most importantly, speaking about those who trust in Jesus Christ,

*In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with **freedom** and confidence.*  
Ephesians 3:12

*Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as **slaves**, you are **slaves** to the one whom you obey- whether you are **slaves** to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be **slaves** to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. **You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness...** When you were **slaves** to sin, you were **free** from the control of righteousness... **now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***  
Romans 6:16-23 selected

Though unpopular in America, *the home of the free and the brave*, God's Word says everyone is a slave to someone OR something. Our idea of **freedom** is doing what we want, when we want - but the biblical idea of **freedom** is being released from bondage, oppression, slavery & prison.

The problem: we don't see ourselves as slaves OR prisoners - after all, for the most part we can do what we want, when we want. When Jesus said of God's Spirit, *'He has sent Me to proclaim **freedom** for the prisoners.'* - he wasn't merely talking about those in jail OR human slavery; he was talking about everyone who is in the bondage of slavery to sin.

In America, our prosperity makes it such that our prison is a *'country club prison.'* We are - as it were - in the prison of the rich and famous; and we enjoy the **perks of prison** so much, that we don't want to get out... after all - we're well fed, well entertained, and comfortable - why should we leave?

But, there's a better existence, a better future, a freer freedom and a bolder confidence if only we trust in Jesus Christ. **Believe in Him and He will set you free!!**

### Upcoming Youth Events

#### Imagebearers

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm  
1st - 5th grade

#### Youth Group

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm  
Middle & High School





## Parental Do's And Don'ts

As a parent of a young basketball player, it's your job to foster a positive environment for your child — and that takes discipline on your part. Here's a quick checklist to help you do just that:

1) **Avoid the P.G.A. (Post-Game Analysis)** Within minutes following the end of a game, players are usually in the family car heading home. It's during the ride home that some well-meaning parents provide a post-game analysis of what the youngster did well, or not so well, during the game.

- "Why didn't you shoot more when you were open?"
- "You need to move more on offense so your teammates will pass the ball to you."
- "It looked like the other team's defense had you flustered a bit."
- "You didn't hustle on defense much today; were you tired?"

From the parent's perspective, these observations seem like very valid points to discuss. "Besides," says the concerned parent, "It's important to go over what my child did in the game while the game is still fresh in his or her mind." The problem is that these P.G.A.'s can quickly ruin the fun for your basketball player. After all, **who wants to be analyzed or criticized moments after leaving the court (and if friends are in the car, it can be even more demoralizing)?** Mom and Dad, give your youngster a break — save your "constructive criticism" for later on in the evening or the next day and bring them up in a two-way conversation about the game. After the game is the time to be positive and brief.

2) **Don't position yourself as the "perfect example."** "Here, let me show you how I used to play the game." Have you ever said something like that to your child? Did you notice them roll their eyes, as in "Oh-uh, here we go again." Relax. If you're like most parents, you want to help teach your child the basics through the benefit of your own experiences. But how do you do that without sounding like a know-it-all old-timer? In the mind of most children, there's a fine line between teaching them the basic skills and trying to show off. Always remember that you're supposed to be there for your son or daughter — not the other way around. Next time, **wait until your youngster comes to you and asks for guidance.** That's the most effective approach for you and the child.

3) **Avoid screaming or yelling from the sidelines at games.** If you have to make noise, make sure you are offering praise and support. **There's not a young player on the court who wants to hear their parent yelling at the officials, the coach, other players, or worse yet, themselves.** Set a good example for other adults by praising good plays on the opposing team, as well.

4) **No need to provide a "play by play" broadcast from the stands.** Ever hear a parent literally directing every play on the court? "Okay, Johnny, bring the ball up...now, find the open man...that's right, pass it to Mark...Mark, take the shot! Max, be sure to get in position for the rebound!" You get the idea. Drop the play-by-play. Just let the kids play. They really don't need your instruction while they're playing and enjoying the game. And, **it can make it difficult for your child's coach to direct the game.**

5) **Don't take the game more seriously than your child.** Your job, as the parent, is to provide positive support for your child; regardless of how well they play or who wins. Whether they sink the winning basket, or they end up on the wrong end of a lopsided score, give them a sincere pat on the back. **Your child is going to monitor your reactions to their performances. If they see your mood go sour after a bad game, they're going to pick up on that and react in a similar fashion.** Teach them to maintain an even balance in the face of victory or defeat, and both of you will benefit.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



Attention  
Scorekeepers  
We Appreciate You!  
Thanks for volunteering!  
The SOAR Committee



Basketball Finale  
Saturday, Dec. 1st  
10:00am



Photos are compliments of James Guffey

## Chosen

By Kathryn Hillen  
NIV Women's Devotional Bible

It was the day before Mother's Day, and our daughter Linda wanted to go shopping even though she was so little that her head was hardly visible over the store counter. Asking me to stay at the front, she headed for the back of Woolworth's, clutching her dollar bill. As I watched, she chose a relish dish and stood by the cash register where she was overlooked by the busy clerks. She waited, dish in hand, jostled by other customers and ignored by the salespeople but firm in her resolve to buy a gift of her own choosing for her mother. She finally returned to me with her package and a smile of triumph.

That inexpensive dish is one of my most prized possessions, for it cost someone I love all that she had. It was bought with real sacrifice by one who went alone with no other aim than to please me. I cherish it, display it with my crystal and china, and use it proudly.

God's beloved Son, Jesus, came to the dime store of earth and chose to sacrifice his all for our redemption. As the Father watched, his love for his Son must have deepened. And how does God feel about those he purchased through death on the cross? Does God love us even more because of what his Son did for us? After all, that's what gives us worth.



First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
Stanley, North Carolina

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

6:00 Care Groups

Image Bearers

Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

[www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

Team Rosters

Game Schedule

Parent's Corner