



WHAT IS FREEDOM?

July 2, 2017 • Dr. David Self, Executive Pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church

“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” “We are descendants of Abraham,” they answered Him, “and we have never been enslaved to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will become free’?” Jesus responded, “I assure you: Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.” John 8:32–36

▶ _____ of Freedom: solitary, _____,
powerful, destructive

▶ **Christian Freedom: communal, submissive, powerful,** _____

▶ **Caricature of the Gerasene** *Mark 5:1–20*

- Solitary — “He lived in the tombs” 5:3a
- _____ — “No one was able to restrain him anymore—even with chains—because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but he had snapped off the chains and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him.” 5:3b–4
- Powerful — “My name is Legion . . . because we are many.” 5:10
- Destructive — “And always, night and day, he was crying out among the tombs and in the mountains and cutting himself with stones.” 5:5

▶ **Miracle of Transformation**

- Communal — “They came to Jesus” 5:15
- Submissive — “. . . and saw the man who had been demon-possessed by the legion, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind” 5:15
- Powerful — “they were afraid” 5:15b
- _____ — “Go back home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” 5:19