

PROPOSAL

Title - The Freedom to Obey in Christ Jesus: Paul's Perspective on Christian Freedom in Romans 8

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The eighth chapter of Paul's epistle to the Romans begins with a defining declaration of the freedom that every Christ follower now has in Christ Jesus. They are permanently set free from the law of sin and death, and they now abide under the law of Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. With no obligations to the flesh but rather a spirit of adoption as sons, those who were formerly unwilling and unable to desire and seek the things of the Spirit now have the freedom to set their minds on the things of the Spirit. As God's children being led by His Spirit, Christ followers have the freedom to live their daily lives on earth within the life and peace that derives only from God's justification and His overwhelming love.

However, while Paul's perspective on Christian freedom plays a central role in the way Christians shape their everyday theology, a clear and concise definition of the freedom is scarcely found. The purpose of this paper is to define Paul's perspective on Christian freedom through a contextual and exegetical examination of Romans 8. Through a close examination of Paul's usage of the terms "in Christ" (Part 1) and the "law of the Spirit of life" (Part 2), along with Paul's significant emphasis on the role of the "Spirit of God" in the actualization of the Christian freedom (Part 3), this paper defines Christian freedom as the power—given *by* God to those *in* Christ and actualized *through* the Spirit—to know and obey the commandments of God.