

Celebrating Our Freedom

Yesterday on July 4th we as a nation celebrated our liberty and freedom. There are a lot of things in America that we still have to work on. Yet one thing we have that many other people around the world do not is freedom. In particular we have freedom of worship. We are also free to express our faith without the kinds of persecution other Christians around the world are experiencing.

If you have watched the news lately you know that today Christians are being persecuted around the world. Did you know that in many places in the world it is illegal for Christians to assemble for worship? To hold any type of service they have to meet in private and in secret. So as we celebrate the birth of our nation let's celebrate our freedom as Christians.

One aspect of our freedom as a nation is we are free to do whatever we want with our money. After our taxes of course! For a Christian that freedom is not license to do what we want but liberty to do what we ought to do.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians this, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." Then later in that same chapter he wrote, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Every week we take up an offering here. We use that money to extend the love of Christ locally, nationally and globally. Much of what we bring in goes out to help others. We do this out of love. When you give we want your gift to be a gift of love. First out of love for what the freedom we have in Christ. But also out of love for others. Today give because you ought to give, God commands us to give. Yet more importantly give because you are free to show your love to others with that gift!