

What Is the Church Meant to Be?

by Mark Emery

Part 3: The Christian Life Is Marked by Freedom, Not Fear

Thank you for reading along as we continue this inquiry into what Scripture says the Church is meant to be. In this segment, we ask not only *what the Church looks like*, but *what kind of life the Gospel produces within us*.

Is the Christian life marked primarily by fear and anxiety?
Or is it marked by freedom, peace, and confidence in Christ?

Scripture is clear.

In **Galatians 5:1**, Paul writes:

“For freedom, Christ set us free. Stand firm, then, and don’t submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

What a remarkable statement. We should say it in the mirror every day.

Christ did not save us so that we might live in continual fear.
He saved us **for freedom**.

This freedom is not license to live carelessly, but liberation from the bondage of sin, shame, and the constant burden of trying to earn what has already been given by grace.

Paul says something equally powerful in **Romans 8:1**:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.”

No condemnation.

That means the Christian life is not meant to be lived under a constant cloud of dread, accusation, or spiritual panic.

The enemy may accuse, but Christ has already spoken the greater word.

Grace.

Victory.

Belonging.

And listen to Paul's encouragement to Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:7**:

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”

This verse gives us a clear lens.

Fear-based spirituality is not the fruit of the Spirit.

The Spirit produces:

- power
- love
- sound judgment
- peace
- confidence in Christ

This does not mean we ignore the reality of evil, temptation, or spiritual struggle. It certainly doesn't mean we sin with impunity.

Scripture speaks honestly about those things.

But our posture is not one of constant fear.

It is one of authority in Christ.

We do not live looking over our shoulder.

We live looking to Jesus. We walk in His full authority by grace.

A Church shaped by freedom begins to look different.

It becomes a place where:

- people are strengthened, not burdened
- faith is joyful, not anxious
- grace is central
- Christ is bigger than fear

This is the life Jesus calls us into.

Not a life of suspicion, Satan-wariness and heaviness.

But a life of Spirit-filled confidence, marked by love, truth, and peace.

Takeaway:

The Gospel does not imprison the soul in fear—it sets it free. In Christ, we are called to walk in power, love, and sound judgment, trusting that His grace is greater than our anxiety.

Questions to ponder:

If Jesus is Lord of my life, I have received grace; but have I truly accepted the reality of that grace in my life? Am I afraid to say I stand tall in the full authority of Jesus Christ my Savior?

Coming next...

- ◆ **PART 4 — The Spirit Produces Fruit, Not Just Information**