

INTRODUCTION

Viceroy butterflies survive because of a phenomenon called mimicry. Their orange and black appearance looks similar to Monarch butterflies, which are toxic if eaten. Since predators learn to avoid eating the toxic Monarchs, they avoid the Viceroys too. These butterflies may fool some animals, but Viceroys are not Monarchs. In the same way, some people can appear to be Christians, but they are not truly disciples of Jesus Christ. True disciples continue in God's Word, thereby experiencing the truth they know and believe. Continued discipleship is the key that unlocks the freedom already given through Christ.

Many people do not recognize that they are in bondage, but everyone who practices sin is enslaved to sin. Spiritual heritage, church attendance, and singing the right songs cannot make us free; only the Son can. When we trust in Him, the Son does not merely free us from sin's penalty – He also frees us from its power. He breaks our chains, removes our shame, shows the way out of temptation, and replaces worldly appetites with a desire for Him. As we continue walking with Christ and submitting to His Word, we experience the transforming reality of that freedom.

It is one thing to believe what the Bible says when you hear the pastor preach it, and it is another thing to live it out. You can say you believe in unconditional love and forgiveness, but how do you respond when someone hurts you? You can say you believe God supplies all your needs, but how do you respond when your bank account is not where you want it to be? Continue in the Word by walking with Jesus daily, talking with Him, meditating on Scripture, and staying accountable to other believers. When the world offers a counterfeit freedom, return to the truth – only the Son can make you free.

GETTING STARTED

1. What are some other ways that people try to pretend to be something they are not?
2. What is the difference between believing something and knowing it from experience?

LET'S GET PERSONAL

1. What sets a disciple of Christ apart from a believer?
2. Why can family heritage, church attendance, or religious activity not make you spiritually free?
3. What is one area of your life where you believe God's truth but struggle to experience freedom?

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

1. What habit or influence makes it harder for you to walk in the freedom Christ has given you? What practical step could you take now to replace it with something that draws you closer to Jesus?
2. If you truly lived as someone who is “free indeed,” what would look different in your life this week?
3. ***Want to dig deeper?*** Take a look at the following passages: John 8:12-30; 1 Timothy 2:4, 6; 1 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 2:2; Luke 14:27; 1 Corinthians 3:1; Galatians 5:1, 16; James 3:15; 2 Peter 2:19; Proverbs 24:19-20; Romans 5:1; Titus 3:8; Philippians 2:12; 1 Timothy 1:20; Philippians 4:13; John 14:6; John 17:17; John 1:12.

RENEW YOUR MIND

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. – Luke 14:27