

You Are, They Are, I am!

John 8:34-36

6-27-2010

Now is about a good a time as any to talk about something no one like talking about; you and your sin. If at this moment your tempted to think; 'oh, your talking to them or old so and so over there.' You would be wrong. Well maybe half wrong, this would be about them too. Do this, just think about me or any other preacher, and every elder you know and have them set down right beside you, then put your mom and dad and aunts and uncles and brothers and sisters and anyone else who you might think as being above this conversation and put them right there beside you too.

Scripture tells us that everyone is a sinner. (Rom3:23, 3:9-20) Jesus declared that everyone is enslaved. Well kind of, He tells us that "everyone who sins is a slave to sin." (John 8:34) Who is a sinner? You! Them! Me! Who is a slave? You, Them and me. Simple logic isn't it? What does a slave desire more than most anything? Freedom would be a good guess. What if the slave didn't know it was a slave, would it want to be free then?

The Israelites of Jesus' day did not react well to the thinking that they were slaves because they did not believe that they were slaves. Jesus wanted them to know that they could be free (Jn.8:31) and they got upset (Jn.8:33)because they believed they already were. Kind of like what we do when some wet behind the ears, snotty nosed, preacher type tries to call us slaves, hauh? It comes down to this: actions tell the story about who is enslaved. (Jn.8:37-38)

One of the first things to be done to becoming free is to change how we think. In order to change the thinking a person has to be open to the idea that they are deceived in areas of their thinking. Now the reaction; "I'm not

deceived!" Just a moment ago you didn't believe you were a slave or at least your mom or your dad wasn't. Was that ignorance or deception?

Everyone is a sinner! Everyone is a slave! We just proved that to be true. This also is true: Everyone is deceived! (Rev.12:9; Titus 3:3; 1Jn.5:19) By scripture we are informed that we also have been deceived. Can a person escape slavery by their own efforts? Can a slave declare to their masters: "I am now free, you do not own or control or rule over me anymore."? Jesus indicates freedom comes from him. (Jn.8:31, 35-36) Truth sets free and Jesus is that truth, the great liberator. (Jn.14:6)

So back to this "Thinking" business; how is thinking changed? 1st recognize the need. If our thinking is wrong because of our being deceived and our being slaves is a result of our sin and our sin is a result of our desire and our desire is governed by what we value and our values are learned in the process of life which is subject to deceptions, then we each have deep need. 2nd ask God to give us understanding to see the truth. (Wisdom – Jam.1:5)

How do we know that our thinking must change in order to gain freedom? Because the very language of salvation show this to be true. "Repent" (Act.2:38, 3:19, 17:30, 26:20) There are many other places were the word repent is used but these should be enough for anyone to see their importance. Repent = change thinking, to think differently. When a person changes how they think they change their value system.

Our freedom is dependent upon our thinking. What we need is to be renewed or to put that in more modern terms – our minds need rewritten. (Rm.12:2, 8:6-8) Once a person is set free by the Son they then are sons. (Jn.8:35,36; Gal.3:26-29)