Sermon: Christianity and Freedom   **Scripture**: John 8:31-36
Series: *Exploring Christianity*   **Date**: July 4, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) **What does this passage teach us about God?**
   a) Do you tend to think of God as the giver of freedom? Why or why not?

   b) Why is it that serving and worshiping God is the most freeing thing we can do?

2) **What does this passage teach us about us?**
   a) When Jesus says that "the truth will set you free" he is assuming that we all tend to be deceived and addicted to ourselves. Do you agree with his assessment of humanity? Why or why not? Are you able to see places in your life where you might be deceived or in bondage?

   b) Why must freedom be given to us (imputed) rather than something we achieve for ourselves? Or...how can freedom that has to be earned become another form of slavery for us?

3) **What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**
   a) Jesus says his word/the truth sets us free. His word is both the law and the gospel. How does the law free us from self-deception? How does the gospel of Jesus Christ free us from bondage?

   b) Think about how Jesus connects freedom to sonship (v.35-36). How is being in a family more freeing than being alone/independent?

APPLICATION

   a) You know you are "free indeed" when you can set aside your freedoms in order to love and serve others. Where have you seen yourself setting aside your own rights for the sake of others lately? Where might you need to set aside your rights for the sake of others?

FIGHTER VERSES: Ephesians 2:4-10.

PRAYER

- Praise God for the freedoms you enjoy physically and spiritually.
- Repent of any ways that you have put your freedom over love for God and others.
- Ask God to help you embrace the freedom of Christ – freedom from condemnation and sin, and freedom to live in God's family of love and service.