

WAVE

Patrick Nix

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Hope for the BOUND

Jesus came to preach deliverance to the captives, and He is still proclaiming forgiveness and pardon to all who are bound and chained. Not all are free. Many are bound by the chains of harmful habits, hurts, and hang-ups.

Not all of us chose these chains – in many cases, they chose us. But we do not have to be captive any longer. The gospel has power to set us free!

The top four types of bondage that the church faces today: debt, porn, over-eating, and prescription drugs. These are very different fights from those our fathers fought against, just one generation ago (tobacco & booze). Many find themselves shamefully dependent and devoted to a destructive behavior, hating self but unable to stop. Like a parasite, the addiction holds on to its host for dear life, while killing it at the same time.

Labels We Wear

Sinful labels do not define believers. If you have been saved and have a relationship with Jesus, then sin can not condemn you any longer. Satan has no more dominion over you.

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 6:9-12 , Paul reminds the church of what they used to be and what they have become in Jesus. They had been bound and captive by their sin and sinful habits, a condition that results when people live without Christ – they become labeled and defined by their sins.

But not you – not believers! I love what he says in verse 11... *“and such were some of you.”* Wow! I am happy that what I was does not still determine who I am! It is true that without Jesus, what you do determines who you are. But, in Him, who He is and what He has done determines who you are!

Jesus Forgives... and more!

Notice the three words in 1 Corinthians 6:11... *washed, sanctified, & justified*. The first order of business is purging of sin, guilt, and stain.⁵⁸ He cleanses the wound – ridding it of all infection that might spread and make things worse. This cleansing is not always a pleasant experience, but it is always best. Next, He sets us up for growth (sanctification). He makes us holy saints – not instantly – but through the progress of continual growth.

Not only has He placed us in the process of healing, but He also declares it finished. He renders us completely righteous and restored to innocence (justification).

He sees your life from beginning to end and honors the end because of His grace.

It is a powerful thing to remember that God said, “You are Forgiven” long before we ever confessed our sins or repented of them. It is

⁵⁸ 1 John 1:9

His goodness that leads us to the place where we feel about sin the way we should.⁵⁹

Turn from your sin because it has already been forgiven and the debt is already paid!

Use the space below to write down a list of your mistakes, failures, and sins. Then take a Sharpie and mark through each one that God has forgiven you of!

⁵⁹ Romans 2:4

The Truth Sets Free!

When the woman was caught red-handed in adultery ⁶⁰ and brought before Jesus, He responded with a gracious truth.

Eventually He set her free to be the overcomer He saw in her.

The truth — His truth — had made her free. And when He sets you free, nothing can bind you.

Stop running back to the open cell and expecting the warden to have power over you. The gospel has liberated you and made you free. Christ has expunged your record and given you a new identity. It is time to live in liberty!

Walk out of that cell and never come back.

⁶⁰ John 8