

SET ME FREE



Acts 15:1-2, “Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: ‘Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.’ This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.” (NIV)



SET ME FREE

Acts 15:3-4, “The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.” (NIV)



SET ME FREE

Acts 15:5-6, “Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, ‘The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.’ The apostles and elders met to consider this question.” (NIV)



SET ME FREE

Acts 15:7-9, “After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: ‘Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.



SET ME FREE

**God, who knows the heart,
showed that He accepted
them by giving the Holy Spirit
to them, just as He did to us.
He made no distinction
between us and them, for He
purified their hearts by faith.”
(NIV)**



SET ME FREE

Acts 15:10-11, “Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

(NIV)

SET ME FREE



Acts 15:12, “The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.” (NIV)



SET ME FREE

Acts 15:13-15, “When they finished, James spoke up: “Brothers, listen to me. Simon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:” (NIV)



SET ME FREE

Acts 15:16-19, “After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things that have been known for ages.’

‘It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.’” (NIV)



SET ME FREE

SET ME FREE CONFRONTING SLAVE MASTERS

Chicago Tribune:

“Reverend John Alexander Dowie left little to chance a century ago, when the charismatic preacher founded the city of Zion as a carefully ordered religious utopia: He immediately outlawed sin.”



SET ME FREE



“No fishing out the hotel windows.”

Voted Best Book of the Year

PHILIP
YANCEY



WHAT'S SO
AMAZING
ABOUT
GRACE?

AUTHOR OF THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW



SET ME FREE

There is perhaps not one of the natural passions so hard to subdue as pride. Disguise it. Struggle with it. Stifle it. Mortify it as much as one pleases. It is still alive, and will every now and then peep out and show itself... Even if I could conceive that I completely overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility.



SET ME FREE

“Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?” (Acts 15:10-NIV)



SET ME FREE

THE CHAINS THAT BIND

- Acts 15 - Judaism and obedience to the law
- Today - legalism, humanism or any other form of 'ism'

Acts 15:1, "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." (NIV)



SET ME FREE

SLAVE MASTERS

Acts 15:36, “Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.’” (NIV)



SET ME FREE

SLAVE MASTERS

Between Acts 14 and 15 Paul wrote to the Galatians Church.



SET ME FREE

SLAVE MASTERS

1. Brings to them protection . . .

Galatians 6:12b, “The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.” (NIV)



SET ME FREE

SLAVE MASTERS

2. Brings to them piety . . .

Galatians 6:13b, “They want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh.”

(NIV)



SET ME FREE

SLAVE MASTERS

3. Brings to them power . . .

Galatians 2:4, “This matter arose because some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.”

(NIV)

SET ME FREE



**At the heart of every legalist
is a fear of freedom!**



SET ME FREE

The Shawshank Redemption

Red sums up his feelings:

“It is a terrible thing to live in fear.”



SET ME FREE

IDENTIFYING SLAVE MASTERS

1. I walk more by feelings than by faith (Acts 15:7-11)!
2. I walk more in the mundane than in the miraculous (Acts 15:12)!
3. I walk more by my wisdom than by God's Word (Acts 15:13-18)!



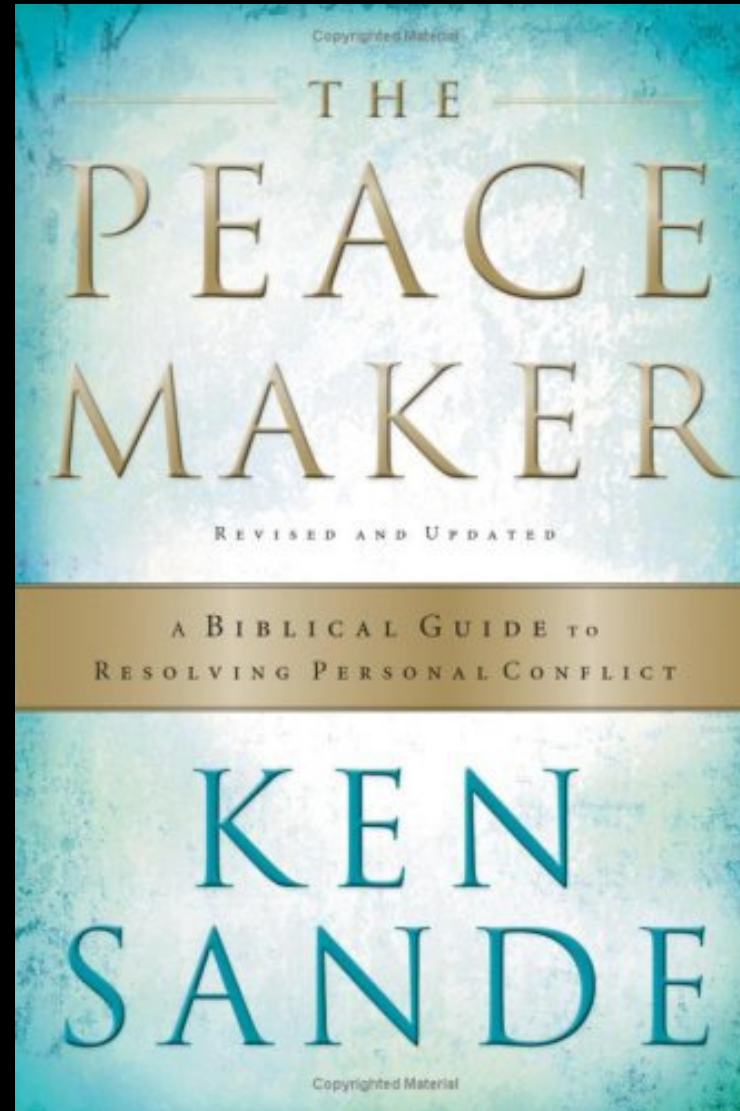
SET ME FREE

CONFRONTATION!

**Galatians 6:1-2, “Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”
(NLT)**



SET ME FREE



SET ME FREE

Jesus tells us how to confront legalism; “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?



SET ME FREE

**You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”
(Matthew 7:3-5-NIV)**



SET ME FREE

***“In the Christian life,
nothing, nothing at all, can
be purchased at the do-it-
yourself shop.”***

—Author Harry Blamires

***(Harry Blamires, *The Tyranny of Time: A Defense of
Dogmatism*, Morehouse-Barlow Company, 1965, page 98)***



SET ME FREE

SET ME FREE

