

**From:** Michael Birnbaum <michael@islonline.org>

**Dear Daughters and Sons of the Reformation:**

Today we celebrated **Reformation Sunday** (LOTS of red in the congregation today!). We also dedicated the three **new crosses** in the parking lot area by recessing outside for the dedication and closing of the service. Our "children's time" was a **birthday celebration** for our church (all protestant churches).

**Here are some notes and ways to apply our texts and sermon to your life next week:**

1. Please pray first, then reread the Gospel Lesson for the day: John 8: 31-36.
2. It's all about FREEDOM. Jesus teaches us that knowing Him and knowing truth , as revealed in the Word, leads us to true FREEDOM -- FOREVER.
3. By seeing and acknowledging our sin we are made ready for forgiveness and FREEDOM from our sin. Vss 33-35.
4. FREEDOM has a price, whether it was the cost of the American Revolution conflict or the Reformation conflicts, FREEDOM was/is born out of sacrifice. Ultimately, however, **Jesus paid the ultimate price/sacrifice** for our FREEDOM from sin by dying on the cross and rising again. The ultimate sacrifice for our ultimate FREEDOM which begins NOW and lasts FOREVER!!
5. So let's LIVE in Jesus and His Word every day (vs 31) , hour by hour and begin to LIVE the FREEDOM He won for us. Try going to Him as many times as you can in the day. Pour out your needs to Him, thank Him for His presence, ask Him to guide you through the next hours of the day!
6. Extra credit: read Galatians 4:7 to understand your freedom from the slavery of sin. If you want more info on the Reformation history of conflict and wars that followed Luther's original declarations (it was a mess...) go to <http://libertymagazine.org/article/the-reformation-and-wars-of-religion>

May the Lord bless and keep each and every one of you every day this week!!

See you next Sunday -- bring someone!!

Pastor

Rev. Michael W. Birnbaum