

FREEDOM - This peace with God begins our freedom. We start with the freedom from enmity with God. That means we can know God is for us and not against us; He is not our enemy. We can experience freedom from bondage to the flesh, the self. This means we are free not to sin; we are able to choose God and not self. And we are able to be free from the fear of death. Because we have entered into a right relationship with God, we may look forward to an eternal life with Him. And most importantly, we are free to begin a new life of service to Him and others in His name, or on His behalf. Through the process of humility, fear of God, penitent prayer and faith, you have entered into a contract or 'covenant relationship' with God. By virtue of your covenant relationship, God pronounces or declares you holy. Throughout scripture, even after God declares Israel holy, God commands Israel to **be** holy saying, "Be holy as I am holy". How are we to understand this? Simply this: by their actions toward others, their neighbors and the aliens among and around them, their holiness and God's holiness are demonstrated. They are being holy **if** their actions reflect God's covenant rules. There is a price to pay; this is a costly proposition. I think the two words which best describe the **attitude** suitable for this new walk with God are "**servanthood**" and "**pilgrim**". Through submission to God's authority, He has given us permission to serve Him and His people, the Church, and to learn what it means to follow Him. This may seem counter-intuitive to the concept of freedom, but biblically speaking, freedom never means just doing whatever you want. It means finally being able to live the life God intended for you to live. It means we are able to: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deut.6:5