

# BEYOND SUNDAY: April 25, 2021

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Series Page: [wearepcc.com/BrandNew](http://wearepcc.com/BrandNew)

Message: Brand:New Freedom

How should the world view the church? Unfortunately, we've got to own the fact that we've created a *brand* for the church that Jesus never intended. But we have the opportunity to give everyone a **Brand: New** perspective. In this 5-part series, Brand: New, we will look at how we can return Christianity to the hope-filled, life-giving *brand* Jesus intended.

## #1

This week's focus is on a Brand:New Freedom. Have you ever been held bondage to, or held captive by something (e.g., a thought, a feeling, a substance, a relationship, a circumstance, etc.)? What words describe that captivity? Contrast it with how it feels to be set free.

## #2

Lead Pastor Gary Gaddini points out that in Matthew 8-9 Jesus shows us what life will look like in this Kingdom where He reigns. And in doing, so we are confronted with two facts:

- A. This world is NOT the world God designed, but a world that humans have destroyed.
- B. Sin has wreaked havoc on every aspect of our world and Jesus goes about restoring what sin has broken.

In what way(s) do you see that this is not the world God designed? Give some examples in which human sin has destroyed various aspects of our world.

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## #3

Read [Matthew 8:14-17](#).

- A. In what way is Jesus a **bridge builder** in this passage? (You might consider other Scripture as well.)
- B. How does Jesus use His power of touch?
- C. How is Jesus' freedom to act or respond to others shown here?

## #4

Read [Isaiah 53:4](#). The mission of Jesus, according to Isaiah and Matthew, is to restore us to wholeness by **catching** our sickness and **taking away** our diseases. Ponder this statement. What does that mean to you? What did Peter's mother-in-law do after being set free from her sickness? [Matthew 8:15](#). What can we learn from her about how we can use our freedom?

## #5

How have you experienced freedom in Christ (e.g., spiritual, emotional, and physical)? What was your life like before that freedom occurred? How do you feel now? We can never free ourselves from the bondage of sin on our own. But praise God He has already taken on our infirmities on the cross to make us whole! Take time to reflect on this truth and give thanks for your freedom in Christ.

## #6

Last week, Gary challenged us to give the first 14 minutes to God each day -- before phones, emails, work, etc. If you accepted that challenge, how did it go for you? How might doing so bring more freedom in your life? In this series, we have gained a Brand:New perspective regarding a New Community, New Hope, New Life, New Touch, and New Freedom. Which of these new perspectives stood out the most to you? How does your Brand:New perspective make a difference in your life, community, and world?

## **Resources**

1. [Support a Graduating High School Foster Teen](#)
2. Join an upcoming [Be The Bridge Group](#) - runs May 2 - June 13
3. [Register](#) for Live on the Lawn for May 2.