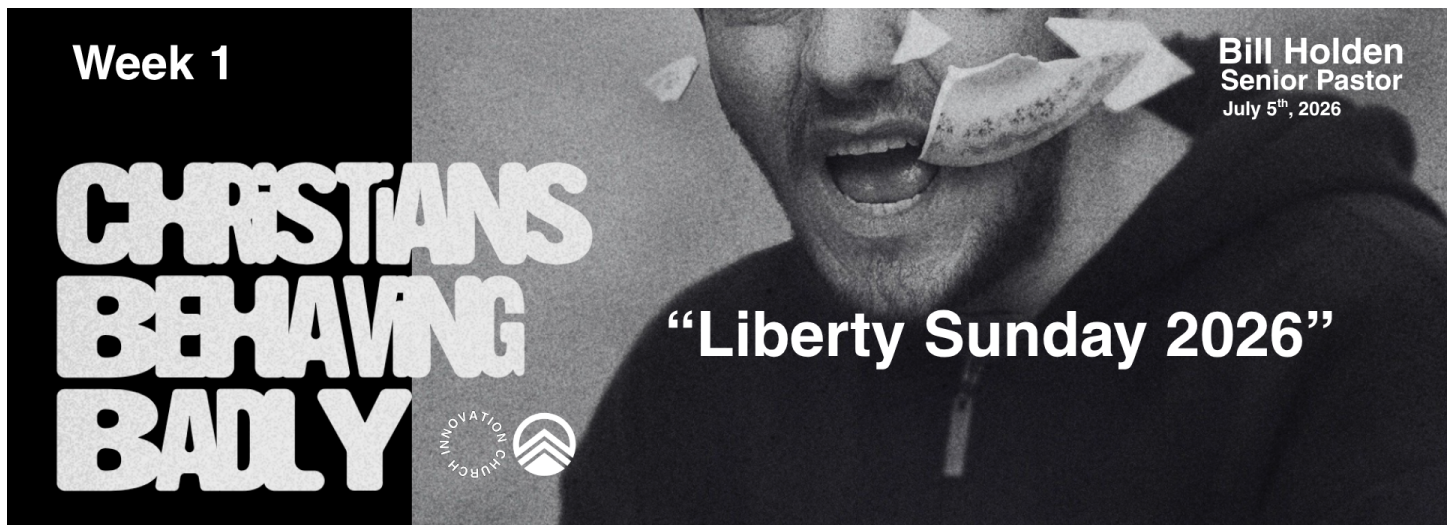




Week 1

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July 5th, 2026

CHRISTIANS BEHAVING BADLY



“Liberty Sunday 2026”

Liberty Sunday 2026 Week 1

The Big Idea: Freedom is a gift from God, but true faithfulness means boldly obeying Christ, protecting unity, and staying focused on His mission—no matter the cost or circumstances.

Church, courage doesn't start **when** pressure arrives. Courage starts **before** pressure arrives.

Main Scriptures:

Acts 4:13-22

Philippians 4:2 (NLT)

Philippians 3:20

Acts 4:13-22 13The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. 14But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. 15So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves. 16“What should we do with these men?” they asked each other. “We can’t deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it. 17But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus’ name again.” 18So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. 19But Peter and John replied, “Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? 20We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard.” 21The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn’t know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God 22for this miraculous sign—the healing of a man who had been lame for more than forty years.

Freedom is a gift. Faithfulness is the **assignment**.

How do we live that out though?

1. BE GRATEFUL FOR FREEDOM

The Gospel has never depended on perfect circumstances. It's always depended on a powerful Savior.

Pray for leaders. Vote your convictions. Engage your community. Be thankful. Use your voice. But don't confuse American freedom with Christian faithfulness.

Because if freedom disappeared tomorrow... Jesus would still be **King**. And the **church** would still have a mission.

2. Faithfulness matters more than comfort

Peter says:

Acts 4:19-20 "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God."

There are moments when faithfulness costs something.

You don't build convictions during the test. You build convictions **before** the test.

Sometimes the greatest threat to what God wants to do isn't what happens outside the church—it's what we allow to happen between each other inside the church.

Philippians 4:2 (NLT) - Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement.

The disagreement became **bigger** than the **mission**.

How do we live this out?

3. KEEP YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST

Philippians 3:20 "Our citizenship is in heaven."

Church, don't let your passion for truth cost you your witness. Don't let temporary issues distract you from an eternal mission. Don't become Euodia and Syntyche fighting while the Gospel waits.

The mission is too important. People matter too much. Jesus is too good.

Freedom is a gift. Faithfulness is the assignment.