

**GOD'S PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER  
TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
Freedom Sunday - September 24, 2017**

**Human Trafficking – A form of modern slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of other people.**

**According to the International Labor Organization (IOC)...**

- There are approximately 21 million victims of human trafficking globally.
- 14 million are trafficked into forced labor and about 4.5 million are forced into commercial sexual exploitation globally.
- 5.5 million of those are children (under 18 years old).
- Human trafficking is a \$150 billion-dollar industry, second only to drug sales as the most profitable criminal industry in the world.

**According to the US State Department and US Department of Justice...**

- 600,000 – 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year; of those, 80% are female and 50% are children.
- 300,000 children in the US are at risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- The average age for girls entering the commercial sex industry is between 12-13. And studies show that 75 to 95% of all commercially sexually exploited persons were sexually abused as children.

**All victims of human trafficking share one thing in common:**

**Vulnerability.**

**TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING...**

**1. Realize every person is made in God's image.**

**Genesis 1:27 (NIV)** "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."

**2. Live the Good News of the Gospel.**

**Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)** "The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

**Our Mission:** As the Body of Christ, we are charged to offer new life and freedom to those who are oppressed—including victims of human trafficking.

**Main point:**

Jesus wants freedom for people who are oppressed.

**Isaiah 58:9b-10 (NIV)** "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, <sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

**Hebrews 13:3 (NIV)** "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

**3. Participate in God's Kingdom on earth.**

**Matthew 6:10 (NIV)** "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

**Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NIV)** "All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

**Matthew 25:40 (NIV)** *“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.’”*

**Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)** *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

### **GOD’S CONCERN FOR JUSTICE...**

- **God does not approve of slavery and exploitation.**

**Genesis 37:28 (NIV)** *“So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.”*

- **God brings good from evil.**

**Genesis 50:20 (NIV)** *“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”*

- **God is with us in our pain.**

**Genesis 39:2 (NIV)** *“The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.”*

**Genesis 39:20b-21 (NIV)** *“But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup> the Lord was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.”*

#### **Main Point:**

God offers restoration to the vulnerable and exploited.

**Leviticus 19:33-34 (NIV)** *“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. <sup>34</sup> The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”*

**Psalms 146:7-9 (NIV)** *“He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, <sup>8</sup> the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but He frustrates the ways of the wicked.”*

**Amos 5:24 (NIV)** *“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”*

**Micah 6:8 (NIV)** *“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”*

### **PRACTICAL RESPONSES TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING...**

- **Fight the demand.**
- **Become a compassionate consumer.**

<https://www.one.org/us/>

<http://betterworldshopper.com/rankings.html>

<http://fairtradeusa.org/>

- **Engage in ministry to at risk groups.**

<http://www.ncm.org/>

<https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/center-justice-reconciliation>

<https://orangewoodfoundation.org/>

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- **Pray for the victims.**

<http://humantraffickinghotline.org/>

<https://polarisproject.org/>