

## YEAR 2 (3 of 12) 5 & 10 - Victorious Christians You Should Know: William Wilberforce

Dear Church Family,

Some victories in the Christian life are not won in a single moment, but through decades of faithful perseverance. **William Wilberforce** teaches us that obedience to Christ can—and must—shape every area of life, including the public square.

Born in 1759, Wilberforce entered British politics at a young age and enjoyed early success, influence, and popularity. Yet everything changed when he experienced a profound spiritual conversion in his mid-twenties. As his faith deepened, he wrestled with a pressing question: *Should a Christian remain in politics at all?*

After prayer and counsel, Wilberforce became convinced that God had placed him in Parliament for a purpose.

That purpose soon became clear—the abolition of the British slave trade.

At the time, slavery was deeply entrenched in the economic and political life of the nation. Opposing it meant ridicule, isolation, and repeated defeat. Wilberforce introduced abolition bills year after year, only to see them rejected. He endured slander, exhaustion, and declining health, yet he refused to abandon what he believed was a gospel issue.

Wilberforce understood that faith in Christ demands concern for human dignity. Because every person is made in God's image, injustice could not be ignored.

For over **twenty years**, Wilberforce labored faithfully, often seeing no visible progress. Many would have given up. But Wilberforce believed that obedience was his responsibility—results belonged to God.

In 1807, Parliament finally voted to abolish the slave trade throughout the British Empire. Just days before his death in 1833, Wilberforce learned that slavery itself had been outlawed entirely.

His life is a powerful reminder that Christian victory often looks like **long obedience in the same direction**.

We may not be called to Parliament or public reform, but we are called to live out our faith with integrity, courage, and compassion wherever God has placed us. Wilberforce's life shows us that when Christ reigns in the heart, His influence will inevitably be seen in the world.

May we be faithful not only in what we believe, but in how we live—and may we trust God with the outcome.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor*