

July 4th Weekend - ALL ONLINE!

"What Freedom is For!"

July 4th, 2021

Intro:

- TALK ABOUT GRATITUDE FOR AMERICA & THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

- *George Washington Quote: "The establishment of our new Government seemed to be the last great experiment for promoting human happiness."*

- America is an Ongoing Experiment & I'm so grateful for it!

- Warts, Imperfections, Setbacks & all!

- Thank those who have Served.

- My Grandfather & father served this country!

- I am so grateful!!!

- NATIONAL ANTHEM - Praying for Opportunity to Keep Preaching the Gospel!!!

- Today, I want to talk to those of us who are Followers of Jesus.

- I recognize not everyone participating today is... that's okay!

- We hope you will be one day, b/c we believe living in Freedom in Christ is the Greatest Freedom anyone can ever know!

- & it offers us the Best Life anyone can possibly live!!!

- Jesus set us Free with the Ultimate Freedom!

- Freedom from sin & death!

- Freedom from Eternal Separation from God!

Romans 8:2 "Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."

John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

- Now we, who are Followers of Jesus, who live in America, have a Responsibility to use our American Freedom to proclaim a Greater Freedom!

- I want to take a few minutes today & talk about...

What our Freedom is For:

PRAY

1. Freedom is for Freedom.

A. Wait... what??? That seems redundant & confusing!!!

- But look what the Bible says...

1 Corinthians 6:12 "I have the right to do anything," you say--but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"--but I will not be mastered by anything."

B. God's ultimate desire for our lives is not that we are Set Free so we can live however we want & do whatever we want, whenever we want!

- That's not Freedom, that's actually Bondage in Disguise!!!

- DOG WITHOUT A FENCE ILL.

- That's not freedom, that's actually cruelty & bad pet parenting!!!

C. The same is true with us... There's this belief today that "Because God loves me unconditionally, I can live however I want & He will still love me, right???"

- YES! But just b/c God's Love is Unconditional, doesn't mean there aren't consequences for our actions!

- When we live outside the boundaries of God's Word & God's Ways, that's not freedom, that's actually bondage in disguise!

Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

D. Don't pick up again anything that Christ has already given you Freedom from!!!

2. Freedom is for Serving Others.

Galatians 5:13 "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

A. This is where we are getting it wrong in our Country today.

- We have been led to believe that "My Freedom" is "My Freedom" & nobody can tell me what I can & can't do, or will or won't do!
- That's NOT actually Freedom... Not for US as Christians!!!

B. The Bible makes it clear that for us as Christians, our freedom is ALWAYS to be leveraged & used for somebody else's good & gain!!!

- "I am free, but it's not for me!"

C. ILLs. - Financial Blessing - What can I do to help someone else?

- Great Marriage - Help other couples?
- Gained Wisdom - Help others?
- Access to Healthcare & Resources - How can I help others?

D. In America, we've bought into this idea that "My Freedom is For Me!"

- And it's just not Biblical!!!

1 Corinthians 9:19 "Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible."

E. The goal of our Freedom is that Others would come to know Freedom in Jesus like we have!

- This is why Serving is such a big deal for us as a Church!
- July - National Serve Day!!!
- Let's get 100's of us out serving next month!!!

3. Freedom is for Something Greater.

Romans 6:22 "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."

I Peter 2:16-17 "Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."

A. The Benefit of our Freedom is Holiness & Godliness, not Carelessness!

- The Greatest Gift we can give to God in return for our Freedom we've found in Him is a Holy, Respectable and Honorable Life!

B. Look at those Words:

- 1) Respect... to EVERYONE.**
- 2) Love... for God's People.**
- 3) Fear... of God.**
- 4) Honor... for those in Authority over us.**

C. THAT... is what Freedom looks like in our Life!

- Show me someone who's life looks like: "Anger, Self-Centeredness, Pride, Entitlement & I-can-do-whatever-I-want" & I'll show you someone who is not really free!

- But show me someone who's life looks like, "Respect / Love / Fearing God / Honor" & I'll show you someone who has genuinely been changed by the Love of God!!!

What is Freedom for?

- 1. Freedom 2. Serving Others. 3. Something Greater.**

Challenge: ? What are you doing with your Freedom?

- Using to Indulge the Flesh? Or serve God & Others with it?

1. Salvation - the Greatest Freedom.

2. Repentance & Rededicating our lives to Living in True Freedom!