

Men's RoundTable

FREEDOM – THE GREAT JEWEL OF LIFE

John 8:31,32; Galatians 5:1

FREEDOM – DO YOU BELIEVE IN A GOD WHO SETS YOU FREE?

Your freedom cost someone else his life. If you are free, then someone has died to give you that experience. Freedom comes at a great cost. God has set you free. His abundant grace has accomplished that which you could never have without His sacrifice. However, many men have refused such freedom and chosen to live a life without joy and void of celebration of what God has given in Christ. This study will invite you to explore the joys of God-given freedom. Begin the journey of learning to live as a free man.

A CRUCIAL QUESTION.

FREEDOM –

What's Love Got to Do With It?

“God is love, so we learn to live a life of love, God in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us...there is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life - fear of loss, fear of failure, fear of change, inability to trust - is one not yet fully formed in love.”

- 1 John 4:17,18

FREEDOM = Tenacious Love

The Jesus standard for being His follower:

- K.I.S.S. – Love & Love - Matthew 22:37
- God describes Himself as Love - 1 John 4:17
- Jesus says this is the road to Heaven...Matthew 5:20
For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

So what's the freakin problem???

BONDAGE NOT FREEDOM

What it is not: False Intimacy

- Critical/Blaming/Victimlike
- Defensive/Afraid/Insecure
- Contemptuous/Bitter
- Withdrawn/Closed/Angry
- Sex/Fantasy/Affairs/Porn

Tenacious Love = FREEDOM

2 Timothy 1:7

What it **IS**: Redemptive Intimacy

- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality – *James 3:17*
- A Choice – I want you....but I don't need you
- Forgiving/Grace-full/Truth-full
- Vulnerable - willing to take relational risks.
- Being “whole-hearted” - courage to tell the story of all of who you are with your whole heart.
- Kind/Firm/Tough/Boundaried/NOT NICE!
- Passion/Adventure/Fun Together/Good Desires

Your FREEDOM = TENACITY

- Relationships change us – what we saw modeled relationally is what we become relationally
- We are here to connect. It's hardwired into our biology. It's the driving force in the human personality.
- People who have a strong sense of love and belonging BELIEVE THEY ARE WORTHY OF LOVE AND BELONGING.
- Our experiences, mainly our relationships, form us as persons.
- A baby cannot truly become a human apart from human relationships
- And as God's children we become who we are through relationship with God and God's people.

HOW DO I GET FROM SLIDE 4 to 5??

1. Practice, Practice, Practice – we must put ourselves in a position to practice and learn how to love.
2. Practical change – we make deliberate choices to put ourselves in a position to practice by building safe relationships – get in a REAL men's group – Proverbs 31:23
3. We must learn to master our desire (Gen. 4:7, James 4). The Hebrew word for desire used in these passages has virtually the same meaning – the creative life force (both good & bad) in all of us and what it means to love deeply & passionately – passionate energy – our emotional self!
4. It is a process of becoming – not a lightning strike! (1 Cor. 13:11)
5. There is only one way to truly be free (John 8:36)!!!
Knowing and being known – intimacy – “in to me I see”.

ACTION: Journal

“The truth – that love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which men can aspire....the salvation of man is through love and in love...”

Victor Frankl

1. How am I tenaciously loving?
2. What is my E.Q.?
3. What is preventing me from tenacious love?
(Beaver Dams on Intimacy River – secrets, silence, judgement)?