

# Lessons on Grace, Freedom, *and* Holiness...

Family Camp 2008









# Freedom!

- **Gal 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.**
- **We all want it...but what are we free from?**

# First, we are free from legalistic tradition...

- Paul refers to being free from the “yoke of slavery” which refers to the struggle to fulfill the OT Law on our own strength
- Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

# More important, however: we are free from bondage to sin...

- **John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**
- **33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"**
- **34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

**Today, however, many believers  
act as if they are free *to sin*...**

## **Rom 6:1-2**

- **6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?**

**→ We know that grace has set us free from legalism and from sin.**

**→ We know also that we are not free to keep on sinning.**

**→ If legalism is not the path to holiness, what are the requirements of holiness? Are there any?**

# Indeed there are! Consider this scripture:

- Heb 12:14
- 14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

**If holiness  $\neq$  legalism....**

**then...**

**holiness = ?**

**Pentecostals were traditionally concerned with avoiding the outward acts: Smoking, drinking of alcohol, dancing, improper clothing choices, gambling, and divorce.**

***And so should we...***

# Where is the Bible's focus?

- **Proverbs 6:16** There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: **17** haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, **18a** heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, **19a** false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.
- **Prov 8:13** To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

**What things should we  
pursue?**

**Pentecostals were always  
concerned about doing the  
outward things: Church  
attendance, keeping  
Sunday holy, etc.**

## Where is the Bible's focus?

- **Col. 3:12** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.  
**13** Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

# God's approach and ours seems to be opposite...

- **GOD focuses on who we are, our inner nature, the part of us that no one else sees. He knows that if we possess the fruit of the Spirit in abundance, He won't have to worry about the external sins. *The inside always affects the outside!***
- **WE try and make the outside look good, by doing things we should, and not doing the things we shouldn't. Sometimes, however, we neglect the most important thing – our heart!**

# God's approach and ours seems to be opposite...

- God's focus = our heart.
- Fruit of the Spirit growing inside =  
less struggle with external sins.

**Our focus = the external sins.**

**One who is holy "inside" will live holy "outside";  
One who fakes holiness outside will also be full  
of holes inside...**

# How do we determine what things are wrong?

- **Some things are specifically listed in scripture as sin.**
- **These actions or attitudes are sinful for all believers, at all times.**

- 1 Cor 6:18-20
- 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

**What about all the things that  
scripture doesn't talk about  
specifically?**

**Without legalism, how do we live  
holy lives by grace?**

# 1. The Holy Spirit *must* be involved!

- Ezek 36:26-27
- 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

## 2. Know the principles of the Word

- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.
- 1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing...

### **3. Under grace, in all of our actions, we must consider the weaker Christian...**

- 1 Cor 10:23 "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is constructive. 24 Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.
- 1 Cor 8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

- Rom 14:13-15

- 13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. 14 As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. 15 If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.

- Rom 14:19-21

- 19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

## 4. We must consider the impact of our actions upon our witness in the community

- Col 4: 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.
- 1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

- 2 Cor 1:12 Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God.
- Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light..15 Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

- Phil 2:3-7
- 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
- 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing,
- taking the very nature of a servant...

- 12 Therefore, my dear friends...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. 14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life...

# **For issues not specifically addressed in Scripture, holiness under grace involves four questions:**

- **1. Holy Spirit, is this wrong for me to do?**
- **2. Holy Spirit, what are the principles of the Word that relate to this issue?**
- **3. Holy Spirit, by doing this, might I cause someone who is weaker to copy me, and do something that for them is sinful?**
- **4. Holy Spirit, by doing this, might I cause damage the cause of Christ in my community? Might I damage my reputation and witness?**

# Summary:

- **OT Law + people without the Spirit = Legalism = false holiness.**
- **NT Grace + Spirit-indwelt people = True Godly Holiness**