

Freedom's Just

Another Word

For ?



ME AND BOBBY MCGEE





So, To a Lot of Americans

- Freedom means ?
- The right and the ability to make my own choices and live my life the way I want to without interference from government power
- It's kind of another way of saying I want the government to agree with me and make laws that reflect my values and not let competing values and factions bother me
- What happens when regimes change?



For Believers, There is More

- **GAL 5** [a] It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. [*and what does this mean?*]
- **13** For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."



The Case for Discipleship

- ANNND, we are right back to where we left off two weeks ago
- **19** [e]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you [f]always, even to the end of the age.”



Break It Down

- MAKE DISCIPLES – not members, not just converts, not “get them to pray a prayer of salvation so they can go to Heaven”
- A Disciple is Someone who becomes like his master; people who carry/reflect and communicate the life of Jesus, so that when others are around them, they can TELL THEY HAVE BEEN WITH JESUS!
- So clear now that this is where the church has utterly failed



Process is Even Spelled Out

- Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit – so they can experience full unity and intimacy with all aspects of God (John 17)
- But here is the MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE COMMISSION, THAT DEFINES AND ACTIVATES EVERYTHING ELSE:
- Teaching them to obey ALL I HAVE COMMANDED YOU



This is the Great Commandment

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all men will know that you are **My disciples**, if you have love for one another." Jn 13:34



Refocus Our Identity

A disciple is someone who keeps this commandment – to love like Jesus loves, and live like Jesus lived, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and fruit of the Holy Spirit, starting with the the love of Jesus – main fruit – this is our design, our ministry, our destiny



So, \$64 Trillion Question Is

How are disciples made?
How does one become a
disciple instead of just
remaining a convert or a
church member?



Tale of Two Loves (Faiths?)

- Self-interested Love – focused on the blessings and benefits which are MINE as the result of being saved (going to Heaven, answered prayers, gifts, provision, protection, etc.)
- You might also call this “transactional faith”
- If I do something for God – accept Him as my Savior – He will do stuff for me
- Primary motivation is blessings and results



But There is Another ...

- Disinterested Love – where someone has become so in love with and in awe of God, that they don't even think of their own salvation anymore.
- Rather, they are completely preoccupied with the beauty of God and His nature, desires, ways and purposes.
- Not transactional, but transformational – I am truly changed in my inner desires because in knowing Him I think less and less about me
- Motivation is Worship, the result is freedom





The World is Drowning

- Drowning in judgementalism
- Gk word here means to distinguish in order to try, condemn and punish
- We are drowning in it and it is getting really ugly – you know what I mean
- Dems are judging Rs, conservatives are judging liberals, millennials are judging everybody, the blogosphere is steeped in self-righteous opinions that trigger self-righteous responses
- Blame and condemnation is rampant



Judgement-free Zone?

- The Body of Christ is supposed to be the one place where the conversation begins and ends with the Great Commandment
- Doesn't mean you can't have opinions, but first you have to examine yourself with the lens of the Holy Spirit, and don't speak until your own LOGS have been extracted
- Because we all have logs, and the fact that we don't get it just proves the point

Are We Loving a Broken World?



CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG



The Local Church (US) Is

- Uniquely called – Matthew 25:40, James 1:27
- Uniquely anointed – Isaiah 61
- Uniquely Commanded – Luke 10:27
- Uniquely Equipped – Ephesians 3:20
- This Caring mission will not only deliver our neighbors from generational cycle of suffering, it will provide the most powerful means of introducing them to Jesus



For Us, Freedom's Just ...

- Another Word for ???
- Someone who has willingly, joyfully surrendered their rights in order to become a bonds slave of Jesus, and so that His life is our life and His power is our power and His love flows through us to change the world
- ³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”



Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY