



### Can't Live Without It Week 3 – FREEDOM Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

#### Scripture:

Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! <sup>16</sup> Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. <sup>17</sup> Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. <sup>18</sup> Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

<sup>19</sup> Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. <sup>21</sup> And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. <sup>22</sup> But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:15-23

#### Reflection Questions:

- If you had total freedom for one day this week, what would you do?
- Have you been participating in the 21 Days of Selfless Living? What is one thing that has stood out to you this week?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- How do you have observed people describe the idea of freedom? Are there any examples that come to your mind quickly?

- Read Romans 6:15-23. Take some time to take in Paul's teaching in this section and write down what you notice. How do you react to his use of the analogy of being a slave?
- Chip shared that while we can think of freedom as doing whatever we want to do, that it is really more complicated than that. We want conflicting things. "Living well requires us to wisely choose which freedoms to exercise and which to restrict." How have you experienced this?
- Read this quote out loud. **"...I found that while [Christianity] had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild."** – GK Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*  
How do you react to that quote?
- If you knew you were truly free from sin, how would you live?
  - What would that look like practically?
  - Read over that list. Is that kind of life attractive to you?
- Read Romans 6:2-8. Does the image of baptism as a way of being joined with Jesus' death and resurrection help make things more clear? How does this give you a picture of true freedom?
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take time to pray as you close your time of reflection or discussion, asking God to help you act on what he has asked you to do. Use the prayer from the story in Luke 18: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

#### **Join us for 21 Days of Selfless Living!**

We are embarking on a journey to become more like Jesus by becoming more selfless. Learn about how to be part of it at the 21 Days of Selfless Living page at <http://www.wschurch.org/21days>.

#### **Message Main Points and Scripture:**

- **"Christianity is an enemy to people's freedom."**
- **"Christianity is just a bunch of rules"**
- **"Christianity conflicts with people's freedom."**
- Romans 6:20 – "...You were free from the obligation to do right."
- Romans 6:20-21 – "When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom."
- **Exercising the wrong freedoms leads to enslavement.**
- **Exercising the RIGHT freedoms in the WRONG WAY leads to enslavement.**
- **idolatry**
- **Idolatry is the worship of good things that aren't God.**
- Romans 1:25—"They... worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator..."
- **Idolatry leads to oppression.**
- **"An idolatrous attachment can lead you to break any promise, rationalize any indiscretion, or betray any other allegiance, in order to hold onto it. It may drive you to violate all good and proper boundaries. To practice idolatry is to be a slave."** – Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*
- **Freedom = Being able to do whatever I want to do.**
- **"It's time to see what I can do... To test the limits and break through... No right, no wrong, no rules for me... I'm free."**  
- Elsa, Disney's *Frozen*
- **Your freedoms to do what you desire are in conflict with each other.**
- **There are only *freedoms*. Living well requires us to wisely choose which freedoms to exercise and which to restrict.**
- **The right freedoms are found by binding yourself to the right things...**

- “...I found that while [Christianity] had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.” – GK Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*
- **Exercising the wrong freedoms leads to enslavement. Exercising the right enslavement leads to freedom.**
- Romans 6:22 – “...But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.”
- **Slave of God.**
- Romans 7:25 - “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, our Master!”
- Romans 6:3-4 “...Have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? We died and were buried with Christ through baptism...”
- Romans 6:6-7 – “...our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.”
- Romans 6:3 - “Have you forgotten...”