

Communion Service:

I Peter 1:18-21 NIRV: ***"You were set free from an empty way of life. This way of life was handed down to you by your own people of long ago. You know that you were not bought with things that can pass away, like silver or gold. Instead, you were bought with the priceless blood of Christ. He is a perfect lamb. He doesn't have any flaws at all. He was chosen before God created the world...Because of what Christ has done, you believe in God. It was God who raised him from the dead. And it was God who gave him glory. So your faith and hope are in God."***

What Communion Celebrates:

1. Freedom from our old way of life
2. Celebrate the work of the Blood of Christ
3. Because of what God has done through Christ "our faith & hope are in God"

Find Freedom #3: Freedom In Truth

Since we live in "community" with other people we tend to compare & measure ourselves with others.

Secular psychologist Thomas Harris' 1967 book: "I'm OK, You're OK" identified 4 ways in which we may relate:

1. *I'm Not OK, You're OK (inferior position)*
2. *I'm Not OK, You're Not OK (both of us are bad)*
3. *I'm OK, You're Not OK (superior position)*
4. *I'm OK, You're OK (we're both good)*

What is the truth? The bible teaches that #2 is true BEFORE Christ, "I'm not OK, You're not OK" (Rom. 3:23). But AFTER Christ #4 is correct, "I'm OK, You're OK" (2 Cor. 5:17). But proceed with caution; DO NOT resort to #3, "I'm OK, You're NOT OK" (Gal. 6:1-5)!

Pastor Daniel used two quotes from Tim Chester two weeks ago in week one in our series about freedom:

"Justification is a change of my status in God's sight; sanctification is a change of my heart and character." He also quoted, "Holiness doesn't happen with great heroic acts, but in 1,000 small decisions." Tim Chester

Pastor Stephanie reminded us last week, “We believe that **life change happens in the context of relationship.**” She quoted Paul Tripp, “we are all people in **need of change, helping people in need of change.**”

Four Major Change Agents God Uses to Change Us That Leads Us Into Freedom:

1. The Blood of Christ (today’s celebration thru Communion)
2. The Spirit of Christ (discussed in 1 Cor. 2:9-16 “Know God”)
3. The Community of Christ (Church: weekend/Life Groups)
4. The Word of Christ OR our subtitle: “Freedom In Truth”

Jesus’ Prayer for us John 17:13-16 J. B. Phillips Translation: “And now I come to you and I say these things in the world that these men may find my joy completed in themselves. **I have given them your word,** and the world has hated them, for **they are no more sons of the world than I am.** I am not praying that you will take them out of the world but that you will **keep them from the evil one.**”

John 17:17-19 Phillips “They are no more the sons of the world than I am—**make them holy by the truth;** for **your word is the truth.** I have sent them to the world just as you sent me to the world and I consecrate myself for their sakes that **they may be made holy by the truth.**”

“Christ...loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might **sanctify and cleanse** her with the **washing of water by the word,** that He might **present her to Himself a glorious church,** not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be **holy and without blemish.**” (Eph. 5:25b-27 NKJV).

John 8:31-33 “Then Jesus said to those Jews who **believed Him,** ‘**If you abide in My word,** you are My disciples indeed. And **you shall know the truth,** and **the truth shall make you free.**’ They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’”

John 8:34-36 “Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but **a son abides forever.** Therefore, **if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**’”

James 1:21-23 KJV “Wherefore **lay apart** all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive with meekness the engrafted word**, which is able to save your souls. **But be ye doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

James 1:24-25 KJV “For he beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was. But whoso **looks** into the perfect law of liberty, and **continues** therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a **doer** of the work, this man **shall be blessed in his deed.**”

1. *What does it require for a follower of Jesus, a Christian, to continue to live IN the world but not be OF the world?*
2. *What washing & sanctifying agent does Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, use to present a glorious Church to Himself? How does this work?*
3. *According to Jesus, what are three distinguishing marks of true disciple (look closely in John 8:31-32)?*
4. *What is the result of walking in the truth?*
5. *Read James 1:21-25 & briefly discuss what next steps you can take in knowing and walking in the truth*