

2022 Theme: Create In Me a Clean Heart

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Good morning! This is our first Sunday of 2022. There is something about a new year. Many of you have new year's resolutions. It's good to look ahead to have vision for your year, your family. I'd like to lean into that idea of starting over or at least having a fresh start.

Today I'd like to talk about our theme verse.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 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.

Holiness movement

How do you talk about a holiness moment in a religious, performance based, rule following culture?

Repentance, taking away, stop doing

Westminster Catechism

What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean.

Have you ever been dirty?

O to be clean, what will wash away this guilt, and shame what can clean my heart from the regret that I carry? I've tried, nothing washes it away.

Romans 7:24

²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 51:7

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Hebrews 9:14

how much more will the blood of Christ...cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1 John 1:7

but if we walk in the Light...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Hebrews 10:22

let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

1 Corinthians 6:11

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Kitchen floor, new lights, Isaiah Woe is Me

I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

This is the work of God in your life, to be forever removing impurities and idols.

An Idol is anything we look to, to do for us only what God can do. It attracts our affection and attention away from God and to itself.

Don't be surprised if you become less involved in some things.

Every believer has a hang up.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.

There are at least 15 emotions that God commands in the New Testament.

John 3:3

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Psalm 51:10 NKJV

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

The heart of stone: "Stubborn, senseless, that receives no kindly impressions from the Spirit of God in its ordinary operations and influences, that is hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."
(Poole)

A heart of flesh: "One that can *feel*, and that can *enjoy*; that can feel *love to God* and to *all men*, and be a proper habitation for the living God." (Clarke)

Don't live like the gentiles anymore.

Ephesians 4:20-24

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.⁴Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

He is moving us.

Freedom

(Freedom Graphic)

(Promo video?)

In an organization our size there are moments that only take place once every 10 to 15 years.

- We want everyone to participate
- Discipleship track
- What if God gave us 100, 500, or 1000 new believers?

Freedom is a twelve-week journey you'll learn some simple but dynamic truths that will deepen your relationship with God, replace performance with peace, break off shame, live in the Spirit, choose forgiveness, speak words of life, replace judgments with blessings, and more.

Learning is personalized through daily habits, a workbook, and weekly conversations in discussion groups. There are also times of worship, a few video teachings, and a conference at the end.

The truths we learn in FREEDOM are foundational to Petra Church's way of life and we hope this group will be the next step you take in your journey to emotional, relational, and spiritual freedom.

Closing Song

Prayer

Next week – Freedom, Fasting week, new stuff, winter study