

## You Are Free!

### Opening Announcements:

### Opening Prayer

Q: When you think of the word "freedom" what comes to mind? Why?

Q: How might freedom be misused or manipulated?

Q: Are there any misunderstandings about "freedom"?

### Table Time..

**READ: Genesis 2:15-17** "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Q: According to verse 15, what was man's "original" purpose?

Q: What was the command in verse 16-17?

Q: In the original what was the "freedom"?

Q: What was the "limit"?

Q: What is it about the "knowledge of that tree" that was dangerous?

Q: What has that tree brought into the world, our lives, "us"?

Q: How is "death" been manifested ever since the fall?

**READ: Galatians 5:1** "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Q: In this verse, what has Jesus done for us?

Q: How is that a form of "redemption" back to the "original" of Genesis 1-2?

Q: What is the "yoke of slavery"? Why is the Law an "enslaving" force AND, why does it "kill"? (Hint: when you depend on keeping the Law, what are NOT doing? And How does that bring condemnation?)

Q: How do you "stand firm"?

**READ: 2 Corinthians 3:17** "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

Q: Why is there "freedom" when the "Spirit of the Lord is"?

Q: Does this mean we free to do anything we want? Discuss the limits of freedom?

**READ: 1 Peter 2:16** "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."

Q: How might we "use our freedom as a coverup for evil"?

Q: How is being a servant (Greek: "bond slave") to God all about "freedom"? How can a "slave be free"?

### **The FREEDOM Of The Reformation**

Tomorrow is October 31! In the church, historically that day is called "All Hallows Eve". November 1 is the celebration of "All Saints Day". That holiday in the church calendar is the day where those who have died and gone before, are recognized and their lives and witness is remembered. ON October 31, 1517, a young university professor and monk by the name of Martin Luther, nailed his "95 Thesis" (or points of discussion/debate) on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. His points, focused on theological issues regarding purgatory, indulgences, the nature of sin, grace and forgiveness and why the Pope, who claimed to be able to forgive sins, did not but instead continued the practice of buying indulgences to free or lessen the soul's time in purgatory.

At this point in Luther's theological development, he was still very "catholic" in his thinking and writing. This would change as the Reformation took hold and he was increasingly required to re-think his theological positions and then defend them before the Holy Roman Empire, the Emperor and church. One of Luther's greatest contributions to the Reformation is this idea of the "solas". The Five Solas differentiate Protestants from the Romans Catholic Church. They are: "Saved by Grace Alone", "Through Faith Alone", "in Christ alone", "Revealed by Scripture Alone", "to the Glory of God Alone".

Q: How might being "saved by grace alone" bring us freedom?

Q: Why do we have this propensity to "work" for our salvation?

Q: Why is legalism bad?

Q: Why is legalism the opposite of freedom?

Q: When you're "free" what's your motivation for obedience?