

Yes..I Can Free to Live Free Week 1

It seems to me that we have really messed up Christianity. When I say we I mean Christians. I think Christianity has done more to hinder itself than it has been hindered by those who would desire it to die.

In this series, Yes..I can, my desire is to help the church remember what it is about, what it is for, why it is the best message in the world, Why it works, and the reason the world needs to hear a clear presentation of the true Gospel, good news, message of Christ.

I want you to know today that through Christ you can do all things. As a matter of fact the Bible says in Philippians 4:13 that we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

The message of Christ is not a message of “No..you can’ t”. It is a message of “Yes..you can”!

Today we are “free to live free”

From the very beginning God intended us to live free. Genesis Chapter 2:¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;¹⁷ 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.”

How do you read these verses? Many people read them and hear this, “you can’ t or you will die”!

I want you to know today that when God spoke those words he was saying, “Yes..you can”” you are free to live free.

I asked the question a couple weeks ago how many in the room were list makers. Many raised their hands. I think we are all by nature list makers or list doers. We either make them or do them or both. The Bible is full of lists that have benefit and are to be paid attention to. In Galatians 5 Paul makes a list. Some in this room find freedom in this list others find bondage. Listen to the list:

Galatians 5:¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

See there’ s the list and all of the things we can’ t do! Read on with me:

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Paul says, “Yes..you can”! You are free to live free! We are free to live with amazing, love and joy and peace...

We get so caught up in what not to do at times we need to remember that this journey with Christ is about life. It is about how we can live a free and exciting life through Him. Jesus himself said it to his disciples in John the 10th Chapter.

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

God has always wanted us to live free.

We can find freedom from that Spirit of Religion. Jesus did not come so that we could be Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Church of God, Church of Christ, Church of God in Christ, Pentecostal holiness, Catholic, Episcopalian, Evangelical Free, Christian Missionary Alliance, First Baptist, Second Baptist, Third Baptist, Fourth Baptist, Independent, Primitive, Southern, just to name a few.

He came that we might find life and to live that life more abundantly.

Paul says it to us in Romans the 8th chapter this way:

Romans 8:¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

If Christ dwells in even this mortal body, than we can have life and live it to its fullest. This walk with Christ has never been about religion or rules. It has always been about relationship and living life to the fullest with God’ s best interest in mind for us.

One of the problems that we have is so often we buy into a lie. Jesus said in John the 8th chapter and the 32nd verse: ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” In John 14 Jesus says, “I am the way the truth and the life, no one can come to the Father except through me.”

Through Christ all things are possible.

God has given us the freedom of Choice.

Lists are not always inherently bad. We can live in Joy, Peace ...

We can live an abundant life through Christ

The truth of Christ brings freedom.

John 8: 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. We are free to live free. We say Lord, "Yes..I can"!