



PRACTICE TRUE FREEDOM

True freedom is defined as not the ability to do whatever you feel like doing but the ability to say no to sin and yes to God. Titus 2: 11-12 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age." In other words, the grace of God brings true freedom. Unfortunately, there are some Christians who are free but are not enjoying their freedom. There are also those who choose to be enslaved to sin, and legalism. Paul, thus, reminds us in Galatians 5:1 that "it was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

In the slope of Grace-living, true freedom is indeed slippery. On one hand is the idea of licentiousness, which is doing whatever you please, and on the other is legalism wherein you need to do certain things in order to go to heaven.

The reason God loves you is not because of who you are or anything you've done, it's because of what Christ has done for you on the cross. Until you understand grace, you will not be delivered from slavery because your Christian life will be all about performance.

TRUE FREEDOM is by the GRACE OF GOD

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) Grace is something that we don't deserve to receive. It is what Christ has done for us. "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace." (Romans 11:6) It is difficult for us to understand GRACE, because all throughout our life we have been brainwashed that we earn favors and rewards based on good performance. We are made to believe that to please God we must do this and that, we become legalistic. True freedom is the power to love and to serve God and others.

LEGALISM and LICENTIOUSNESS

Many of us are guilty of legalism, i.e. I must do this, must do that...to earn the favor of God. For example, when we couldn't come to Sunday worship due to some compelling reason, we start thinking that something bad will happen to us because we failed in our 'obligations'. Because we do not understand grace, everything we do becomes an obligation. This can drag us down later on.

There is nothing we can do to merit salvation. We cannot manipulate God to favor us with our good works. The extreme of legalism is licentiousness – doing what you feel like doing because you are free (v.13). Don't use it as an excuse to sin. This is not freedom but also slavery (Romans 6:14).

GRACE and LEGALISM

"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1) Grace and legalism

do not match. If you think you can go to heaven by obeying the commandments and rituals you are like saying that what Christ has done on the cross is not enough, because you need to add something in the equation. If you are doing good works to go to heaven, you are not doing it for God but for yourself. Christ died for us to set us free; not just to be free from legalism and condemnation but to be free to love and to serve. "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (Galatians 5:13-14)

The paradox of true freedom is when Jesus becomes our Master, we experience maximum freedom. When we allow ourselves to be our master, we experience slavery.

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CCF Vision Statement

Our vision is to see a movement of millions of committed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ meeting in small groups, transforming: Lives, Families, Communities and Nations for the Glory of God!

CCF Mission Statement

Making Christ Committed Follower who will make Christ Committed Follower of Jesus Christ

DIRECTORY

CCF Alabang	CCF Alanib	CCF Baguio
CCF Bataan	CCF Baguio	CCF Binondo
CCF Caloocan	CCF Cavite	CCF Dipolog
CCF Eastwood	CCF Iligan	CCF Isabela
CCF La Union	CCF LA California	CCF Malolos
CCF Marikina	CCF Marilao	CCF Marikina
CCF Naga	CCF Pampanga	CCF Pasig
CCF Singapore	CCF Taytay	and growing...

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