

Enough: Part 4- Free Enough
Colossians 2:6-23

I. ME

- A. Welcome
- B. Series (Part 4)
 - 1. Enough questions
- C. ?'s of enough can make us feel trapped, paralyzed w/ fear and doubt

II. WE

- A. **John 8:31-32; John 10:10; 2 Cor. 3:17; Galatians 5:1a**
 - 1. **Jesus came to set us free**
- B. Not always the case with religion/spirituality (any)
 - 1. Especially Xianity/Church.
 - 2. Why?... RULES
 - 3. Even if we simply live by our own philosophy... we can feel trapped by rules.

C. Rules create...

- 1. Hypocrites
 - 2. Loopholes
 - a. Benji and the pool
 - 3. Guilt
- D. It's why people reject Xianity and church
- 1. "I don't need being scared of an imaginary guy in the sky to make me be a good person."
 - 2. Rejection never has to do with, "Oh I just couldn't handle all Jesus loves you and died for you stuff."
- E. Why we started Crosscreek... so people could be set **free**
- 1. From enslavements of...
 - 2. Hopelessness, Fear, superstitions, karma
 - 3. Lies, loneliness, self-doubt, anger
 - 4. Repeating cycles of hurting other and being hurt
 - 5. Broken relationships (others/God)

F. Not yet Xians...

- a. Who Jesus really is. What this is truly about... give yourself a fair chance to make an honest decision.

- G. Not new issue.... Same problem Colossians were facing.
 - 1. Issues... mixture of beliefs... you can't be fulfilled if you don't follow these rules and have hyper-spiritual experiences.
- H. Enter Paul
 - 1. When you have Jesus you have more than enough.
 - 2. Stop worrying about all the rules
 - 3. Jesus came to set you free!

I. If your version of Xianity doesn't make you feel free... you're doing it wrong.

III. GOD (Colossians 2:6-23)

A. V. 6-7

- 1. **In HIM** = Overarching point of the entire letter
- 2. What the life of a Jesus-follower is.
 - a. Our values, thinking and actions are established by Jesus.
 - b. **Continue...** on-going
 - c. **Rooted**- Solid, held tight, all nutrients comes from Him.
 - d. **Built up**- growing/transforming
- 3. **Overflowing w/ thankfulness**
- 4. IS that what your experience has been?
- 5. If not it might be b/c it hasn't been based on Jesus but on rules...

B. V. 8

1. Not all philosophy- the type that was making its way in Colossae
2. **Human tradition**- Rules that seem to make sense... based on opinions... Jesus came to set us **free**...
3. **Elemental spiritual forces**: giving spiritual significance (good or bad) to elements/basic parts of creation.
4. Rules give spiritual significance to opinions and inanimate objects.
 - a. Modern Examples...
 - b. You're bad if you think this way...
 - c. Style of music
 - d. Clothing
 - e. That food is evil
 - f. Alcohol
 - g. Jesus sets us **free** from all of that...
5. **Hollow**- empty, no value- b/ c...

6. Our spiritual health is not based on what rules we follow.

7. None of that is based on who Jesus is and who we are/can be in Him...
8. **Our spiritual health is based on who we are in Christ.**
9. B/c...

C. **V. 9-12** (Touch on ideas we talked about in the previous weeks)

1. **V. 9- Jesus is enough to fully know God**
2. **V. 10- Jesus is enough for a full life**
3. **V. 11-12**
 - a. **Circumcision**- cutting off old self
 - b. **Baptism**- Born into new life
 - 1) Part becoming Xian... "initiation" Identifying with Jesus
 - 2) A sign of choosing to have faith
 - 3) **Get baptized.**
 - c. **Jesus is enough for a new identity** (next week)

4. How?

D. V. 13-14

1. Through Jesus, God has made 100% forgiveness possible.
2. **ALLLLLL** our sins.
3. Set **Free** and clear.
4. **Jesus is enough for complete forgiveness.**
5. Jesus came to set us **free** from the guilt of sin.

E. V. 15

1. None of those rules/opinions/objects have any power over you
2. Victory parade
3. **IN CHRIST YOU ARE COMPLETELY FREE**
4. So why would you enslave yourself to another person's religious rules?

F. But Jon, the NT is full of rules...

1. Is it?

2. Galatians 5:6b

3. NT rules/imperatives are examples of how to love God by loving others.
 - a. Not sleep w/ someone not your spouse?
 - 1) Using them. Not valuing them for who God made them to be
 - b. Porn? Using someone... destroying the intimacy your spouse deserves.
 - c. Lie/Steal/Anger?- It hurts other people

4. Religious rules attempt to control people... Jesus' "rules" are examples of how free people love others.

G. V. 16-17

1. **THEREFORE**... Since you are **free**... don't let anyone enslave/control you with their fake rules.

2. Explain the Jewish rules...
3. God's way of setting his people apart in order to foreshadow Jesus making us new people.
4. Don't bring you closer to God

H. V. 18

1. Hyper-Spirituality is just as useless.
2. Makes you proud
3. Makes you pointless

I. V. 19

1. If Jesus is fully God... then anything that tries to be "spiritual" w/o him is pointless.

2. John 14:6

J. V. 20-23

1. **Rules attempt to get bad people to do less bad things.**
 - a. Does nothing to change anyone
 - b. Often makes things worse... "rules are made to be broken"
 - c. Prohibition
 - d. Overbearing Homes
2. Rules might seem useful but they don't do anything to actually change people.
3. Jesus transforms sinners into Children of God.
4. Gets to the root of... pain, selfishness, anger, loneliness... sin
5. **Rules uselessly enslave. Jesus' freedom completely transforms.**

K. When Jesus transforms you... the Law of Love is all you need.

IV. YOU

- A. Not-yet-Xian (Given up on Xianity)- Want freedom?
 1. Have you avoided Jesus b/c someone tried to control you with their rules... saying it was Jesus?

2. **Matt. 11:28-30** Jesus is not harsh and demanding.
 - a. He is gentle and humble in heart.

3. That's the real Jesus... skeptic... what is it that keeps you from that kind of God?

4. Jesus wants to set you free.

5. To give you a clean slate, a new life, a new identity... and it's a free gift... all you have to do is accept it.

6. Gift Card example.

7. Opportunity to accept

B. Jesus-Follower- What are you allowing to enslave you?

1. You are free. Jesus is setting you free daily...

2. Following rules won't make you closer to God.

3. God doesn't love you b/c you keep the rules.

4. Accept who you are in Christ... be rooted and transformed and live a life of thanksgiving... Faith expressing itself through love.

5. It's not about following rules... its about loving God by loving others... allow yourself to be transformed in order to cut out anything that isn't loving... not b/c of guilt or fear but b/c you are loved and are free.

6. God loves you b/c he made you.

7. When guilt/shame... **"I AM FREE"**

8. You are now free to love others for the same reason... how and what that looks like next week.

V. WE

- A. Imagine what it would be like if everyone in your family, neighborhood, office, was living in this FREEDOM-motivated by love and not rules, guilt, or fear?

- B. Everyone was able to accept who God made them to be and knew they were free to love others the same way God loves them?
- C. We wouldn't need laws... everyone would be living out the law of love b/c Christ would be in them transforming them...
 - 1. The Law of love would be at work in everything we did.

D. That's why Crosscreek exists.

- E. To share with our neighbors the **freedom** that following Jesus really brings
- F. To eliminate any barrier that might have been put up b/c of rules or guilt.
- G. To show Salem that God is for them by us (individuals) being for them.
- H. We can imagine it b/c it's the mission God gave us.

I. Jesus' freedom is enough to transform Salem.

- J. Help us transform the lives of Salem through Jesus.