

Message Notes

"The Heavy Burden of Freedom"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – "I need a nifty fifty!"

A quick review of the Freedom Series
Part one – Eating food offered to pagan gods?
(1 Cor 8:1-14)

Part two – Do Christians have "rights"? (1 Cor 9:1-18)

Part three – Living outside yourself (1 Cor. 9:19-27)

Part four – Freedom: Warning about using it wisely (1 Cor 10:1-13)

This week – Part five – The Heavy Burden of Freedom: Fleeing Idolatry! 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

1. Flee Idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14)

What is idolatry?
Jeremiah 2:13

Isaiah 44:12-20

Romans 1:21-23

2. You are what you worship (1 Cor 10:15-18)

3. You gotta serve somebody (1 Cor 10:19-20)

4. The fallacy of living a dualistic life
(1 Cor 10:21-22)

Joshua 24:14-17

Application – "Are you living free from idols?"

The pattern of freedom from idols

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

¹⁴Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. ¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? ¹⁹Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. ²²Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

Jeremiah 2:13

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

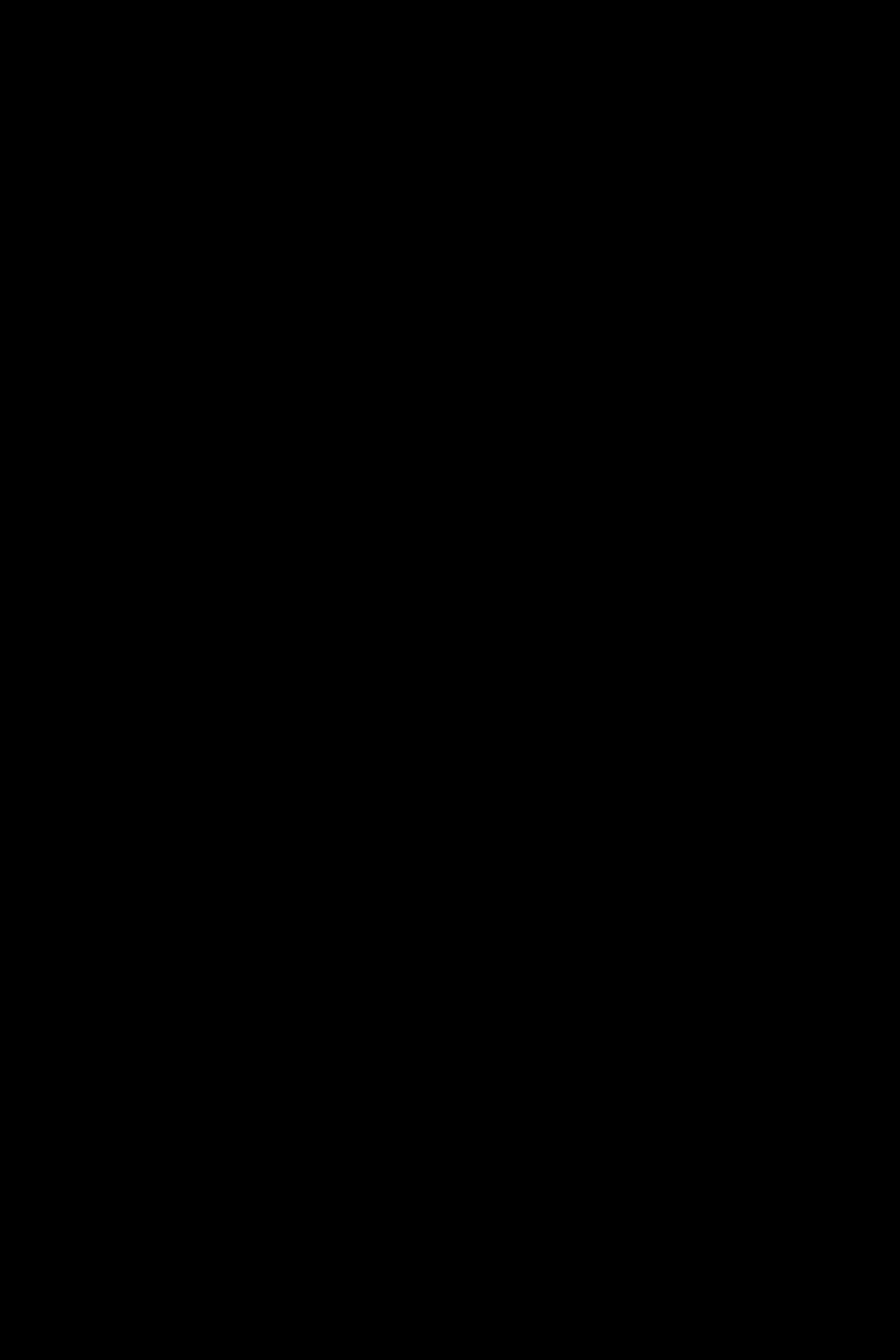
Isaiah 44:12-20

¹²The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry and loses his strength; he drinks no water and grows faint. ¹³The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine. ¹⁴He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. ¹⁵It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. ¹⁶Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire." ¹⁷From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god." ¹⁸They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so that they cannot see, and their minds closed so that they cannot understand. ¹⁹No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, "Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?" ²⁰He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?"

Romans 1:21-23

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Joshua 24:14-27 (use a pew Bible to see this passage)



SEX
AND THE
CITY
OF CORINTH



ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK

SEX AND THE CITY OF CORINTH



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CHURCH IN CRISIS

A STUDY OF PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ANCIENT CORINTH

PART 3 - 1 COR 7

RELATIONAL SIMPLEXITY!

SINGLENESSE DIVORCE SEX IN MARRIAGE
MARRIAGE RE-MARRIAGE

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PART 4:
FREEDOM!

~ WHAT IS IT?

~ HOW DO WE GET
IT?

~ HOW DO WE
PRESERVE IT?

The Historical Situation in Corinth



The Historical Situation in Corinth



Meat was sold in the marketplaces that had been offered to pagan Gods.

1. Should you eat it?
2. Should you eat if offered at another person's house?
3. How about social gatherings?
4. How about eating it at the temple, since it was free there?
5. How about actually taking part of the pagan ceremony to see if the idol actually will do something?



The Difficult Ride of the Christian Life



Legalism

Slippery Slope

License



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Legalism

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I Cor 8:1-13
Now, in the
context of
COMMUNITY!!



Freedom Part One - Eat Pagan Food?



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1 Corinthians 8:4, 7,

⁴So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one.

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⁷But not everyone knows this.

Freedom Part One – Eat Pagan Food?

1 Corinthians 8:9-11

⁹Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.

Freedom Part One – Eat Pagan Food?

1 Corinthians 8:12-13

¹²When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

Knowledge

Freedom

Love

Freedom Part Two

Do Christians have rights?

1 Corinthians 9:1, 4-6, 15

9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?

4 Do we not have the right to eat and drink? **5** Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? **6** Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?

Freedom Part Two

Do Christians have rights?

1 Corinthians 9:1, 4-6, 15

15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.

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YES

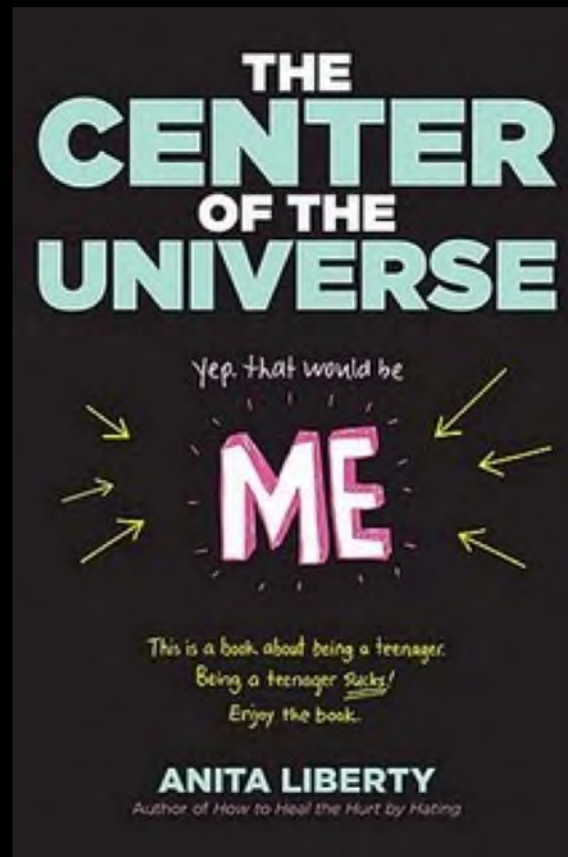
Do Christians have rights?

YES

NO

Freedom Part Three

Freedom: Living outside yourself *1 Corinthians 9:19-23*



Freedom Part Three

Freedom: Living outside yourself

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Freedom Part Four

Freedom: Warnings about using it wisely

1 Corinthians 10:1-21



“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”

Freedom Part Four

Freedom: Warnings about using it wisely

1 Corinthians 10:1-21

¹For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

Freedom Part Four

Freedom: Warnings about using it wisely

1 Corinthians 10:1-21

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did – and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test the Lord, as some of them did – and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did – and were killed by the destroying angel.

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Freedom: Warnings about using it wisely

1 Corinthians 10:1-21

¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

Freedom Part Five

Freedom: The Heavy Burden of Freedom!

1 Corinthians 10:14-22



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1. Flee from Idolatry

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Freedom: The Heavy Burden of Freedom!

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Chose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:14-27

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Joshua 24:14-27

¹⁴“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Chose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:14-27

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! ¹⁷It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. ¹⁸And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

Chose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:14-27

¹⁹Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

²¹But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the LORD.”

²²Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD.”

“Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

Chose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:14-27

²³“Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.”

²⁴And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the LORD our God and obey him.”

Chose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:14-27

²⁵On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he drew up for them decrees and laws. ²⁶And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the LORD.

Chose this day whom you will serve

Joshua 24:14-27

²⁷“See!” he said to all the people. “This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the LORD has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God.”

Freedom from idols

Freedom from idols

Unbelief



Freedom from idols

Unbelief



God Opens our Eyes to Himself



Freedom from idols

Unbelief



God Opens our Eyes to Himself



Belief



Freedom from idols

Unbelief



God Opens our Eyes to Himself



Belief



Life Changing Relationship (Union) with Jesus



Freedom from idols

Unbelief



God Opens our Eyes to Himself



Belief



Life Changing Relationship (Union) with Jesus



Transformation of whole self



Freedom from idols

Unbelief



God Opens our Eyes to Himself



Belief



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Choices Evaluated / Repentance / Faith



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Belief



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Behavioral Change



A "different" kind of people

Application:

Are you living a life of Freedom from idols?

