



REAL MEN CRY

THE SURPRISING SIDE OF MASCULINITY

REAL MEN CRY FOR FREEDOM.

We Americans love our apple pie and baseball... but mostly, we love our freedom.

We love the freedom to eat hot dogs and watch fireworks and pet dogs. We love the freedom to speak and vote and dream any way we want.

But American freedom does not always align with the freedom we are offered in Christ. This earthly freedom encourages people to look out for themselves and fight for their individual rights. Christ's freedom spurs us to look out for others, at times even sacrificing our rights for the good of our neighbor and community.

Jesus calls us into freedom - away from the bondage of brokenness, individualism, and sin of all kinds - and into obedience to Him and community with His people, into abundant life here and eternal life in Heaven.

IN THE BIBLE.

John 8:31-36

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Galatians 5:13-14

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Romans 6:16

Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

Romans 6:19-23

Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. 22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions

- 1.) What sticks out to you in the verses above?
- 2.) Is being both "free indeed" and "slaves to righteousness" through Christ an oxymoron? A paradox? How can it be both?
- 3.) What are some ways Christ's freedom differs from our usual idea of freedom?
- 4.) How can we fight for freedom for others?
- 5.) How can you love your neighbor this week?

TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?