

Living the Celebration-**How you can bring the party to life!!!**

- a. How has your faith been growing strong in the Truth about Jesus? What lies has He freed you from? Celebrate your freedom in Christ with a prayer of praise.

- b. How did your baptism (“buried with Christ”) define a freedom from slavery? Explain the new concept of Jesus being your Lord and the freedom this gives to you!

What rules or expectations keep trying to enslave you?

- c. What types of things are keeping you or your friends in a prison? How could what you discovered in this lesson help give freedom? How could you talk to them about Freedom in Jesus?

- d. Pray specifically for your ONE to see and believe the real Jesus through you.

Pray for Each Other *“Lord, help us live the Art of Celebration by celebrating our FREEDOM in our daily life!!”*



Life Group
Sermon Study
Week of 5/27/18



Big Idea: In the book of Colossians, we discover that we were born to celebrate! Every culture, places feasts and celebrations at the very center of their lives. In this series, we will discover that when celebration becomes the centerpiece of our lives as Christ-followers, our faith deepens, our hope broadens, and love for the world expands. The more we celebrate, the more we become like Jesus.

COLOSSIANS: THE ART OF CELEBRATION**Lesson 3****CELEBRATE FREEDOM!****Colossians 2:6-23****WHEN CELEBRATION REPLACES CONDEMNATION.**

^{2:6} *And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

¹¹ *When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision – the cutting away of your sinful nature. ¹² for you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with Him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.*

²⁰ *You have died with Christ, and He has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, ²¹ “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!?” ²³ Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. ²³ These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires.*

(Colossians 2:6-7; 11-12, 20-23, NLT)

Capture our Attention-

- a. When have you experienced the loss of a freedom that you had taken for granted? How did that restriction cause you to long for freedom.

- b. Share your Take-A-Way from last Sunday's sermon. What insight did God use to capture your attention? How are you trying to put that insight into practice in your daily life?

Discover The Spirit of Celebration-**Celebrating FREEDOM.**

1. List below some of the reasons for celebrating in, **Colossians 2:6-7**.

Describe what "over-flowing with thankfulness" looks like in your life?

2. Paul writes this description of Jesus while he is in prison in Rome (see Acts 28:17-31. How is it significant that Paul could declare these words , **Col. 2:11-12**, even in that difficult position?

How can focusing on Jesus help you deal with your troubles?

3. Paul writes a warning in **Col. 2:8-9** about being taken captive by human thinking that distorts the truth about Jesus. He believes that believers might let some "empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense" enslave us to a lie. Why do you think Paul thought it was necessary to give believers this strong warning?

What does it mean that "in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body"? **Colossians 2:9**

4. What is Paul describing that happened when you were baptized? **Colossians 2:11-13, 20.**

How is your decision of faith, repentance and baptism still important to you in remembering your Freedom in Christ?

5. What is Paul warning believers about in **Colossians 2:16, 18-19** that he fears will enslave them? (See also Romans 6:1-4 and Galatians 5:13-15)

What kind of things have that same potential to take believers captive and enslave us today?