



I Don't Want To Miss A Thing | Doug Wekenman | 3.11.18
LG Weekly

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is the weirdest food you have ever eaten and where were you when you did?

SHARE

As we set sail into the new year, we all have hopes and dreams for how this year is going to be different than the last. Some of us start this year apprehensive of what is to come since last year was full of difficulty and trouble, while others are optimistic and driven to make the most of what's next. What do you think God thinks of your plans, aspirations and resolutions? What do you think His hopes and plans are for your life?

At Red Rocks Church, each year we seriously pray that God would give us a very specific verse which would encourage every person towards living a more full, rich and surrendered life to God; a timely word that would spark a fire and ignite the body of Christ to live to its fullest potential.

The apostle Paul challenged and encouraged the church in Galatia with this, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

Red Rocks Church, we need to stand firm and not allow ourselves to go back to what once enslaved us. Jesus set us free to live in freedom with him. The boundaries God has put in our lives through God's word is for the sake of our freedom. Though it seems counter-intuitive, God puts boundaries in our lives to keep us free. He is not trying to hold something back from us, but wants to give us abundant life here in the present!

We all desire freedom and we all need it. God promises freedom and wants all of us to experience it in and through Him. Freedom from addiction. Freedom from selfishness. Freedom from fear. Freedom from anxiety. Freedom from comparison. But it will take courage to trust God at his word and in the leading of our lives. It will take self-discipline and accountability to take on that which wants to enslave us. It will take a willingness to trust God who perfectly provides all we need to live a holy life through him.

We can live free through Christ who set us free!

This week in our Live.Free series, Doug preached on the position and posture of our hearts as followers of Christ.

Read Mark 16:1-8

We are taught early on in life that we are only as good as our latest performance. This is a world heavy laden with expectations. We are evaluated on our performance in just about every aspect of our lives. Constantly trying to keep up, fit in, get in, and stay in. Unfortunately, in our modern always-on, constantly-connected lifestyles, this has led to exhaustion and disappointment.

This performance driven lifestyle that permeates our lives has created this sense of a schizophrenic identity crisis. Am I in? Am I good enough? Am I lovely enough? Do I have what it takes? These questions are primal and innate to the human soul. Like a pendulum that swings to the extremes, we experience elation when we perform well, and grave disappointment in our failures. This performance theology is anti-gospel, and is exactly where the Apostle Peter found himself in the wake of perhaps his greatest failure.

Jesus had been preparing his disciples for what lied ahead. Peter, one of the disciples, assured Jesus, regardless of the consequences, that he would follow him, even to death. But Jesus looked at Peter and said, "before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

Confused, these twelve men, the ones whom Jesus had chosen to take the “Jesus movement” forward in the world, now faced uncertainty.

Not long after arriving in Jerusalem, Jesus was arrested, unfairly tried, and ultimately sentenced to death. The disciples of Jesus, the twelve men chosen to follow in his way, scattered, hid, and abandoned Jesus. Jesus gets beaten, flogged, and nailed to a cross and for the darkest six hours of his life, he hung on that cross, alone. Meanwhile Peter denied knowing Jesus three times and runs away, weeping bitterly.

Peter forgot. He forgot who he was and what he was called into. He forgot his position in Christ. Fortunately, that isn’t the end of his story.

Can you identify an area of your life where you find yourself performing for approval? Do you find yourself on this performance treadmill constantly trying to be “in” with God?

Why is it so hard for us to “rest” in the finished work of the cross?

GROW

The good news of the Gospel is that our position in Christ is based on Christ’s performance, not ours. Through Christ, God has reconciled us back to him (2 Corinthians 5:18). Which means, we are God’s sons and daughters, no matter what our week looked like. Our position in Christ has nothing to do with our performance!

It can be really difficult to remember this, especially in the midst of our failures, complacency, and apathy. Which is why it is so important that we remind ourselves (and each other) of this truth constantly. The reality is, this world is desperate for some good news and we can be the vehicle God uses to get it to them! But all too often, we waste our energy worrying about whether we are “in” or “out” instead of using that energy to help the world see and understand how great and loving God is!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

According to Paul, reconciliation is a two-step process. The first step is understanding that God has reconciled us (2 Corinthians 5:18a). Once we learn to walk in that, we can carry out the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18b). All too often we try to carry out step two, without understanding step one. We try to be agents of reconciliation, without first understanding that we have been reconciled. How exhausting is that back-and-forth rhythm? It's not a sustainable rhythm and quickly leads to burnout. But when step two is a natural overflow of step one, bringing reconciliation to the world becomes natural for us. As John says, "we love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

You have been given the ministry of reconciliation. What do you think that means? What does it look like to help reconcile the world?

Reconciliation is a two-step process. Have you ever found yourself trying really hard to carry out a ministry of reconciliation without first understanding that you have been reconciled?

What is one practical step you can take this week to carry out your "ministry of reconciliation"?

MOVE

After Peter's three denials, he felt deep sorrow. Convinced that he ruined everything, he ran away and wept bitterly. In his mind, he was "out" and there was no way Jesus wanted to see him. As a result, he missed out on one of the greatest moments in human history. We can all relate to Peter opting out of witnessing this event. This has been the battle for human beings ever since Adam and Eve hid from God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). It is "easy" to run and hide in our shame, but the gospel invites us to live in our new identity, ultimately in freedom.

How many things do we miss out on throughout our lives because we forget that God's love for us is not based on our performance?

What if this week we decided to not let fear or shame keep us from anything God has for us? What if we devoted a week of our lives to living for something bigger than ourselves? What if

this week we determined to stop focusing so much on whether we are “in” or “out” and instead use that energy to help bring good news to a world that is desperate for it?

If we can do that we just might find ourselves **living free!**

What is one thing in your life you missed out on in life because you were too worried about your performance instead of your position?

What is one thing you are going to do this week to get your focus off yourself and focus on loving those around you?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying with and for each other. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women’s groups to share more freely.

TO GO

Share one way this week that you can focus on loving those around you. Maybe it’s sending an encouraging text, giving someone a call that you haven’t spoken to in a while or taking someone out for coffee. May we, as the big C church, commit to holding each other accountable this week.

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