

2010 Summer Teen Camp—The Four Freedoms of Grace—The Freedom to be Different

Introduction

- Personal introduction
- What is legalism?
 - Legalism is a lazy man’s religion. It does not require much of a personal relationship with god. It doesn’t require much thinking either. You simply memorize the list of things that good Christians do, and then you try to check off as many as possible during the week.
- What is the definition of grace?
 - Unearned or deserved merit or favor from God
 - God’s Riches At Christ Expense
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Romans 11:6—grace and works (legalism) are two mutually exclusive system. As grace believers we take our stand on Romans 6:1-4, 14.
- Are grace believers legalistic? If so, where have you observed legalistic behavior?
- What is the Grace Life? How do you understand and experience grace daily in your life?
- There are four basic freedoms that Grace gives us to maintain a grace-based environment in our daily lives. There are the things I want to talk with you about over the next couple of days.
 - The freedom to be different
 - The freedom to be vulnerable
 - The freedom to be candid
 - The freedom to make mistakes

The Freedom to be Different

- Grace is not some abstract concept that you talk about church. It has to be a real-time action that ultimately imprints itself on our hearts. Therefore, grace must be quantifiable. To talk about grace, sing about grace, memorize verses about grace and then not demonstrate grace in real life is to undermine the working of God’s grace in our lives.
- Grace not only means that God loves us even though we are sinners, but the He loves us uniquely and specially.
- *The first chrematistic of the Grace Life is that Grace gives us the freedom to be different.*
- How did you get saved? While we all believe the same message to receive salvation that does not mean we all have to be pressed and molded to be spiritual clones of each other.

Identity

- II Corinthians 5:17—we have all been made new creatures in Jesus Christ
- Galatians 6:15—we have been given a totally new identity in Jesus Christ
- I Corinthians 3:16-17—God dwells and lives in you through the Holy Spirit
- Ephesians 2:22—God inhabits the believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- Ephesians 4:30—we cannot lose our salvation

Acceptance

- Ephesians 1:6—do you know that God accepts you just the way you are? Jesus Christ died for everything that is wrong with us and gave us his life freely when we trusted Christ's work on our behalf.
 - It is a natural human need to feel love and acceptance. We want to be liked and feel that people view us as having something to contribute.
 - I see this need for acceptance played out every day in the hallways of my school. It is this need which causes teenagers to jump in and out of bed with each other, drink and do drugs as they scream for someone to love and accept them.
 - As teens who have grown up understanding the grace message you need to always remember that the only place that your need for unconditional love and acceptance can be met is in Jesus Christ.
 - No other human beings can ever satisfy this deep yearning of our souls that way Christ can. If you put your trust in another human being you will only be disappointed. You need to guard against: unrealistic expectations, and displaced dependencies.
 - Romans 8:14-15
 - Romans 8:35-39
- All three of your basic needs have been met in Jesus Christ: 1) a secure love, 2) a significant purpose, 3) a strong hope

Different is Good

- Galatians 2:20—Jesus Christ has placed his life within every believer

- II Corinthians 4:10-11—the life of Christ being made manifest in our mortal flesh is not going to be specific to your own individual uniqueness.
- This is the freedom to be different that Grace offers. Religion and legalism tries to make everyone look and act the same. Grace gives us the freedom to be different within the revealed will of God found in his word.
- As long as you are not sinning and are being sensitive to the people around you, live your life out loud.

Challenge

- There is a popular book right now amongst Christian teenagers titled, *Do Hard Things*.
- Can I tell that the most difficult and yet most rewarding thing you can do with your life is to understand your acceptance in Christ, use it to embrace your unique differences, and go out and live the Grace Life.