

Week 4 (Feb 2 + 4)

“Get Free”

Modern life is all about freedom—freedom to choose what to buy, where to work, where to live, who your leaders should be, who you’ll marry. It’s very much in our blood as Americans, living in “the land of the free.” And places like Las Vegas and the internet try to lure us in with the promise of even more—freedom to indulge our darker desires without consequences.

And right here we find the big question: where is the line? How free can you get?

A secular person believes that there is no God, and that’s good news for freedom. No God means no lawmaker, no judge, no one to make demands of us or tell us “no.” And because we’re all equal, no one should try to take His place, either—no one gets to be the judge. No one gets to tell us no. The only exception is you can’t do anything that hurts someone.

It may sound good in the moment, but “more freedom is always better” doesn’t work in practice. You can’t fulfill all of your own desires because they conflict with one another. And even if you could, your desires will inevitably conflict with your neighbor’s. We can’t even agree on what constitutes harm.

And at some point we have to let go of the fantasy that says you shouldn’t need anything from anyone and no one should need anything from you. We depend on one another. We owe certain things to one another. The kind of radical freedom we chase after undermines the kinds of deep relationships we long for, the ones that make us healthy and happy. We were made for love, and love requires self-sacrifice.

Instead of “how free can you get,” the better question is what freedom matters most? **Freedom is a means to an end.** When we accept God’s purpose for our lives, we lose the radical freedom the world is chasing, but we gain a loving relationship with a God who is willing to sacrifice of Himself for you. Whatever limits He imposes are for our good, and produce something far better than anything we might have used our freedom for.

Week 4 (Feb 2 + 4) - Get Free (cont.)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

What are some freedoms you're grateful for? Are there any you think are a mistake?

Have you ever thought that people should be free to do what they want as long as no one gets hurt? What might make that idea attractive? What are some of the downsides?

What are some good limitations in your life? What makes them so good?

Do you agree that love requires self-sacrifice? What does that look like in your life?

What would you say to someone who said to you "I can't follow Jesus because He asks too much"?

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NOTES FROM PERSONAL REFLECTION + GROUP DISCUSSION