

This is CL - Finding Freedom

Last week we introduced you to the people on the island of Crete:

One of their own poets described the people on the island as misfits who were known to be Liars, Evil Beast, and Lazy Gluttons!

The reputation of the Cretans for telling lies for selfish purposes was so wide spread that it had given rise to the noun "Cretism," and to the verb "to Cretize" or "to speak like a Cretan," which meant "to deceive".

Titus was sent to this island to finish what was begun, to bring order to the churches and establish spiritual leaders in every city (1:5).

- These leaders would teach and train the Christians how to "... turn from godless living and sinful pleasures..." and they should teach them how to "... live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God." (Titus 2:12)
- The Cretans were a mess, but remember Jesus (Titus 2:14 NLT) "gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Becoming the People of God

Step One – we want people to Know God

Step Two – we want people to Find Freedom

Step Three – we want people to Discover Purpose

Step Four – we want people to Make an Impact

Last Sunday = **Knowing God**

- **Know His Voice**: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).
- **Know His Heart**: God's heart are for His Lost sons and daughters. Like a great shepherd he will leave the 99 behind and go after the one who is lost. Know his love for you.
- **Know His Power**: Eph 1:19,20 (NIRV) "you will know his great power. It can't be compared with anything else. It is at work for us who believe. It is like the mighty strength **20** God showed when he raised Christ from the dead."

There is POWER to transform us from little godless monsters chained by our sins and past failures into the holy people of God who have found Freedom and Purpose in God.

We don't want to be like some of the Cretans Titus 1:16 NIV They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Finding Freedom

Titus Text:

Titus 2:11;12;14 NLT "... the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. **12** And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures... **14** "gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Romans 7:21-25 NIV So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **22** For in my inner being I delight in God's law; **23** but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. **24** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Have you ever felt this tension?

Several translations use the “**DELIVER**” in verses 24 & 25.

Deliverance isn't just for people who have demons, deliverance is for anyone who is struggling with their sinful nature.

How to Find Freedom

First: Understand what happens through Salvation

Titus 2:11 the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people...

- 1) Just as God is a Triune God, we are triune beings. Spirit – Soul – Body.
 - a) When we get saved... experience salvation (born again), our spirit man is empowered by the Holy Spirit to begin the process of regeneration.

Salvation is a spiritual transformation and renewing which recalibrates our inner being back to God's original purpose.
 - b) Regeneration happens in our SPIRIT and it affects change in SOUL and BODY but our souls (or “our minds”) but our bodies are not born again like our SPIRIT Man is.
- 2) Salvation takes care of our eternity; FREEDOM determines our quality of life while still on this earth.

Second: Walk out The Freedom Process

Hebrews 12:1,2 NLT “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. **2** We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith...”

- 1) Be Reachable.
 - a) You might feel like your Freedom is out of reach... its not!!!
 - b) Jesus is your Champion – (Hebrews 12:3,4 NLT) Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. **4** After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.
 - i) Don't become weary and give up in your freedom struggle.
 - ii) It's hard to confront and conquer some things, but it's doable.

Freedom happens best within the context of relationships

- c) The CL Freedom Strategy
 - i) Small Groups
 - ii) Freedom Weekends
 - iii) 21 Day Challenge
 - iv) Specialized Discipleship Counseling
- d) Why do people close off and clamp down?
 - i) Afraid of being judged
 - ii) Afraid of failing

James 5:16 NLT Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

2) Be Teachable.

Proverbs 3:7,8 (NET) Do not be wise in your own estimation; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. 8 This will bring healing to your body, and refreshment to your inner (whole) self.

- a) Have you ever dealt with a “Know It All” spirit.
- b) Teachability comes from humility and it is not a talent or something you are born with, but it is something you can develop.
- c) Sometimes our freedom comes simply by understanding the truth. Jesus said you will know the truth and the truth will set you free (John 8:32)

3) Be Trainable.

- a) Training is the ability to take what you have learned from God and put it into action. It is a process!
- b) Hebrews 12 tells us God is a good Father who disciplines us like a dad does with his children.

Heb. 12:11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

- c) Because He loves us he will not let us sin successfully! He will discipline us.

Maybe the discomfort and difficulty in your life is more than bad luck. Maybe God is trying to get you to deal!

Conclusion: Like the believers on the Island of Crete, let's press into our Freedom.