

# Real Freedom

Pastor Justin Orr / July 3, 2022

## What is freedom?

- What culture tells us about freedom: I can do and say whatever I want, whenever I want to.
- You can have all kinds of freedoms and still be enslaved in your soul.

**Message Thread:** Jesus offers us a different kind of freedom.

## What is REAL Freedom?

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” Galatians 5:22-23

## How do we get it?

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:1-5

*Abide* – present, active, future. Starting now and continuing into the future. Remain, don't leave, stay there.

- Freedom is like terraces going up the side of a mountain.
- Each new level we get closer to Jesus, the vistas are greater, our view of God grows, and our awareness of our sin grows. We bear more fruit and gain greater freedom at the side of Jesus.

## What are the challenges we face in this process?

- We don't abide. We are too busy to sit with Jesus and His Word and let Him teach us.

- We are unaware of our own blinders about ourselves.
- We have unrepentant sin, or we don't trust God's forgiveness and we are stuck in shame.
- Having the wrong foundation for our identity. This is the issue of our value as a person.

Three common false foundations we buy into:

- **Performance:** I have to try harder and do better for God to love me; or the opposite – I will *never* be worthy of His love.
- **People-pleasing:** I need the approval of someone so that I will be valuable or worthy. I need to be in a relationship to define me.
- **Control:** I need things to go my way. I need the end result to be the way I want it.

## Challenge:

- Spend more time in the chair with Jesus. Abide in Him.
- Surrender at deeper and deeper levels with Him. It's okay to sit in the pain and God's goodness at the same time.
- Don't quit. Get back up on the horse and keep praying for more of Jesus and less of yourself.
- Get in a Life Group in the fall or Keys to Freedom now.



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