



SESSION 1 | FREEDOM IS RELATIONSHIP

WELCOME HOME TO FREEDOM!

The purpose of this 4-part course is to familiarize you with the ministry and expression of Freedom Church and prepare you for church membership! We believe joining a church is more than participating services and programs but joining to the *community* of Christians the Bible calls, “the BODY of Christ.” It’s in **RELATIONSHIP** with God and each other that we GROW as followers of Christ. (Disciples)

Finding a home church is important to your walk with Christ. Often in our culture we can look for a church much like we would a consumer picking out their favorite grocery store. However, the scriptures reveal to us that God’s kingdom is built on **RELATIONSHIPS!** While there are plenty of great options for a home church in our greater community, the question to ask the Lord is not “where should I attend?” but “to whom am I called?!” Answering this question can lend you perseverance when you are challenged in community, but it can also give you roots to grow.

For this session we are going to explore redemptive work of Christ to restore us to **RELATIONSHIP** with GOD and OTHERS.

IT’S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP

The story of Adam and Eve is integral to the story of redemption. To understand our present, we must look to the past. Here are a few key takeaways from the creation story in Genesis:

1. All things are created by God’s design! (Gen 1:1)
2. God made Adam and Eve (us) to govern the earth through relationship with Himself. (Gen 2:15)
3. God gave Adam and Eve a CHOICE to obey Him. Their disobedience by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil caused what is often referred to as “The Fall” or “The Fall of Man.” As a result of man’s disobedience, there was a disconnection between their relationship with God; and humanity and all creation fell under the curse of sin. (Disobedience to God) (Gen 2:17, Gen 3)
4. God already had a plan of redemption; it was His son Jesus. This was not plan B, but plan A, in order to have a people of free will, who would love, fellowship and reign with Him for eternity. (Gen 3:15, Rev 13:8)

CORE FAITH:

Repent & Believe!

“Christian” is not a person who attends Church or is an American, Christian is someone who has repented of a life lived for self and sin and now believes in Christ as their righteousness! Their life shows that they have repented and are now following Christ!

Read: Rom 3:23,
John 6:29



5. The Cross of Christ was our path back to relationship with the Father. When God sees a person who has faith in Christ’s work, He no longer sees our sin, but Christ’s righteousness, reuniting us to RELATIONSHIP with the Father!

It was always in God’s heart to have **RELATIONSHIP** with man. Through the Biblical narrative, leading up to the New Testament, we see God reaching for man. In Jeremiah 31 God prophesies through Jeremiah of a New Covenant in which God and man will be restored in real relationship beyond the law.

*“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” **Jeremiah 31:33***

The law was not enough, religion and regulations were not enough, we were made for relationship! Jesus summarized the New Covenant when he was asked by the religious teachers of His day “what is the Greatest Commandment?”

MEMORY VERSE: MATT 22:36-40 (NKJV) “The Great Commandment”

36 “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”
 37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is *the* first and great commandment. 39 And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Loving God in relationship had become the true way to live and express devotion. It wasn’t simply found in religious study, performance or doing good deeds, it was found in sincerely loving God with ALL our capacities!

OUR PASSION AT FREEDOM CHURCH IS TO GUIDE YOU FROM SECONDHAND FAITH TO FIRSTHAND DEVOTION!

There is no Christian who is called to sit on the sidelines, we are all called by God to love Him with all our capacities. This means we are called to be disciples (or followers) of JESUS. The role of church leadership is not to create codependent followers of themselves but to guide each believer into a dynamic RELATIONSHIP with Christ, and help equip them to do the same for others! (bear “spiritual fruit.”) (John 15:16, Eph 4:12)

CORE FAITH:

Spiritual maturity is not measured by how much we do or know, but how well we LOVE!

Matt 22:36-40



Often in modern church paradigms, the presumption is that we are a part of church to pay for goods and spiritual services. When those goods or spiritual services are unsatisfactory, we move on to another spiritual “department store.”

However, the Kingdom has so much more for every follower of Christ. The Church leadership & government exist to equip the Saints (all of us) for the work of the ministry!

YOU ARE HERE TO GROW IN LOVE!

How far do you want to go in loving God? Freedom is relationship!

FALSE RELIGION VS RELATIONSHIP

Matt 16:6 Then Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”

Unfortunately, in our culture, much done in the name of Christ is not always that which brings us the FREEDOM that Christ purchased for us. Jesus warned us to beware of the influence of the Pharisees of His day infiltrating the Church. Today it’s easy to see that which brings about freedom, and that which brings about religious bondage. Here are some Scripturally based examples to think about:

**FREEDOM VALUE:
RELATIONAL**

We are not a part of a Church to simply receive from programs and pay for good services, we have been spiritually joined to other believers to receive and contribute for the maturing of our faith!

Read: Eph 4:16

FALSE RELIGION (in Christ’s Name)	RELATIONSHIP
Confidence in self righteousness	Confidence in Christ’s righteousness
The lost are our “enemies”	The lost are the Lord’s “Harvest”
Fear working through fear	Faith working through love
“Maturity” is in performance & knowledge	“Maturity” is determined by love
Fear based performance	Love based obedience
Gives for return because of fear	Gives for opportunity because of love
Slaves to duty by fear	Serves by delight because of love
Keeps others from the Kingdom	Invites all into the Kingdom
Resists the power of the Holy Spirit	Depends on the Power of the Holy Spirit
Slave	Son

God did not call us out of the slavery of sin to join the slavery of (false) religion!

John 8:36 “So if the Son (Jesus) sets you free, you will be free indeed!”

Jesus speaks to those bound by the yoke of religious performance and fear of His day and says...



Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am ^[a]gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Maybe you’ve been in the slavery of sin and need freedom? Maybe you’ve been bound by the slavery of false religion and need to “detox” and find the “easy yoke” of freedom in Christ! Either way, there is refreshing on the other side of repentance from self-righteousness (dependence) and pride. Come to Jesus. Freedom awaits!

FREEDOM IS RELATIONSHIP!

Our Expression



FREEDOM CHURCH IS...

HOSTING GOD’S PRESENCE, TRANSFORMING LIVES



RELATIONAL

The Kingdom is built on **relationships**. We build our lives on **relationship** with Christ. We love, support, and honor one another through godly community and encouragement. Our lives in Christ are not based on our **relationship** to the rules, but our love for the Ruler, the Lord Jesus. (**Gal 5:13, John 17:20-21, 2 Cor 4:5**)



GENERATIONAL

The Kingdom is not only built relationally, but also **generationally!** At Freedom Church we strongly believe in the generations serving one another and imparting into one another. We express this by not only hosting children and youth services, but joining together when possible as a spiritual family! (**Ps 145:4, Matt 10:42, Luke 9:46-48**)



MISSIONAL

We take the **mission** of the Kingdom seriously. Jesus qualified us, now it is a privilege to serve His purposes in practical, tangible ways. Our love and passion should look like something! We believe in the truth with the witness of God’s power is our **mission** in our region and in the nations! (**James 2:18-26, Col 3:23, Matt 25:40**)

QUESTION 1: What is the difference between attending a church, and being called to a church body?

QUESTION 2: How does God measure spiritual maturity?