



SESSION 2 | FREEDOM IS FAMILY

THE BODY NOT THE BUILDING

Jesus’s plan to reach the world has always been His Church. But what is the Church? Is it the building, is it the organization designed to meet spiritual needs of individuals and families? If we look to the Scriptures, we learn that Church was never about buildings, programs and organizations, but is about the family of God. The Bible calls the Church, “The Body of Christ.” Meaning we, in unity with one another and with the Lord, are to be the living embodiment of Christ on the Earth! While buildings can certainly support the work of the Kingdom, **it’s always been about the Body, not the building. We are the Church!**



Here are some key truths of what it means to be the “body not the building”:

- The body shares spiritual gifts with one another. We each have a part to share and give, this shouldn’t be met simply from the platform. (1 Cor 12:7, 1 Peter 4:10)
- The body takes care of one another, needs are not always met from the organization itself. The first responder to needs is the body. (Rom 12:9-11, Gal 5:13)
- The body is connected to the “head” – Jesus. It’s not just the minister that hears from God for the people. Each person needs to know God, through Christ, intimately. (1 Pet 2:9)
- Leadership exists to equip the body for ministry and give spiritual governance. (Eph 4:12)

OUR CONNECTION TO THE FATHER MAKES US A FAMILY

Christ’s mission was always to reveal and reconcile us to the Father, God! (John 14:9) The more we as individuals live under the banner (revelation) of the Father’s love for us, the more we behave and function as a healthy spiritual family! **His love for us allows us to love others wholeheartedly, the same way He loves us!**

CORE FAITH:
Church Attendance

Scriptures tell us that we should not forsake gathering!
This includes celebration services, lighthouses, and prayer meetings!
Personal Savior doesn’t mean isolated devotion!
We are better together!

Read: Heb 10:25



We all bring our family history with us into our new spiritual family. It's been said, "Christ is in my heart, but grandpa lives in my bones." **We believe salvation not only heals our spiritual life, but is for the soul and body as well.** This means that part of our freedom in Christ is discovering new patterns and ways of living under the Father's love, through Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 8:15 (From slaves to sons)

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Because we are a spiritual family, we are learning to relate to one another in healthy ways that exemplify Christ to the world and minister to one another!

Being a spiritual family means that:

1. We defer to others over ourselves. (Phil 2:3)
2. We resolve conflicts quickly. (Keep short accounts)
3. We seek the "unity of the Spirit." (Eph 4:3)
4. We are not competitive about positions but celebrate one another.
5. We are not quick to judge another's motives or heart but choose to let love "believe all things" or the best in others. (we want a culture that allows room to heal and grow)
6. We honor each other as spiritual brothers, sisters, children, fathers and mothers in the Kingdom!
7. We don't engage in gossip, slander, suspicions, or divisions in the church.

DISCIPLESHIP IN A FAMILY CULTURE

Often in Church cultures, churches are built around a minister with a teaching gift, and the structure and organization is created to amplify that teaching gift to as many people as possible. In Western culture, we often call that "church growth." **While there is value in "wholesale" discipleship and teaching, the Scriptures give us a clear pattern of how we are to go about making followers of Jesus, which is often referred to as "discipleship."**

"If you make disciples, you always get the church. But if you make a church, you rarely get disciples." – Mike Breen (author of Building a Discipleship Culture)

CORE FAITH:

Church is not simply programs & services, it's relationships. We grow through relationships!

Read: Eph 4:16



It's possible to have a church with a lot of activities but no deep spiritual growth within the members. Our passion at Freedom Church is to make true disciples of Jesus. This means we must follow the ways of Jesus to go about seeing lives transformed.

BIG IS NOT ALWAYS "BETTER"

For us as a Church body, it means remaining relationally close to members and seekers and keeping our numbers low to foster connection. This doesn't mean we won't accept thousands of converts; it means we keep communities, within the community, at a lower number of disciples. For our lighthouses and small groups we aim for 12 to 20. For corporate services and congregations, around 220-300 in attendance.

Having this type of commitment causes us as a body to be continually committed to raising up leaders and "laborers" in His Harvest. We want to foster godly relationships and discipleships. **The Church was never meant to be a spectator sport. We are all in the game!**

CORE FAITH: Generosity

We believe a healthy church is a generous church. In the New Covenant, tithes and offerings are not a burden or curse, but a blessing and opportunity. We encourage all members to tithe to the "storehouse" as a joyful offering to the Lord.

Read: 2 Cor 9:6-7

MEMORY VERSE: Matt 28:18-20 (The Great Commission)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and *make disciples* of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

WE ARE ALL TO BE DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES IN A FAMILY CULTURE

Everything the church is doing should be connected to discipleship, teaching others to be personal followers of Jesus. Discipleship itself has many expressions depending on the purpose.

JESUS'S MINISTRY MODEL (NOTE: PRE-CHURCH, CROSS, BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT)

3 > 12

Personal Discipleship

• "Go look for the one" Mt 8:12

70 > Multitudes

Corporate Discipleship

• "Shepherd the flock" 1 Pt 5:2



Discipleship in the broadest sense, is the work of the church to *mature* the saints into Christ followers. When we say “discipleship” we primarily mean **personal** discipleship. Corporate discipleship is the work of the church to *mature* believers.

Spiritually & Emotionally Mature



Corporate & Personal Discipleship
(Work of the Church)

Spiritually & Emotionally Immature

Examples of **Church-Wide Discipleship** (Corporate) at Freedom Church

1. Prayer Meetings disciple others by not only teaching them to commune with God, effectively pray for others, and lead prayer meetings, but believers are transformed as we behold God in worship and through praying the Scriptures.

2. Generational Services disciple others by meeting the specific needs of specific age groups and allow unique context for growth. Our primary generational services at Freedom are our FreedomKIDS ministry on Sundays and FreedomYouth on Wednesday Nights!

3. Public Exhortation and Teaching! Most of our public ministry takes place in our celebration services, discipleship training courses & in small groups such as our lighthouses and salt studies.

Examples and opportunities for **Personal Discipleship**

At some level, we all should be actively discipling others and being discipled

1. Joining and participating in a **Freedom Light House** or Salt Study! Doing so makes opportunity to build relationships.
2. Joining and participating in a **prayer meeting** or ministry gives opportunity to personally disciple and be discipled.
3. **Serving on a ministry team** at any capacity at Freedom Church is viewed as an opportunity to be discipled and disciple others!

DISCIPLES FOLLOW JESUS - When we encounter Jesus, we meet a man who calls us to come and die (Mark 8:34-35). And he calls us to follow him and learn from him (Matthew 4:19, 11:29).

DISCIPLES IMITATE AND REPLICATE JESUS - At the heart of following Jesus is Jesus' call to imitate him and replicate him. Since He is our teacher, we are to learn from him and strive in the power of the Holy Spirit to become like him (Luke 6:40).

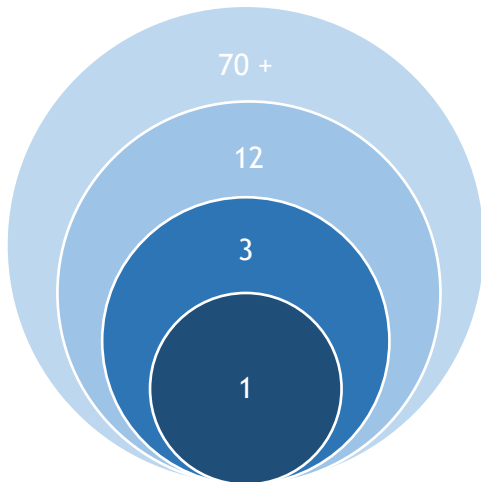
DISCIPLES HELP OTHERS FOLLOW JESUS - As we follow our Lord, we quickly learn that part of imitation is replication. We must never forget that God has placed us in the families, workplaces, and circles of friends that we are in so that we can proclaim the gospel of grace to those apart from Christ.

DISCIPLES INTENTIONALLY BUILD RELATIONSHIPS - We need to be intentional about cultivating deep, honest relationships in which we do spiritual good to other Christians. We always need to be intentional, but we don't always need to be structured. Since we are always following Jesus, we always have the opportunity to help others follow him as well.

DISCIPLES DEPEND UPON GRACE - While it is true that a disciple of Jesus ought to help others follow Jesus, we must always remember that apart from the sustaining and empowering grace of God we can do nothing (John 15:5). As we follow Christ and help others follow him, we're constantly made aware that we need grace. *Excerpt from discipleship article written by Garrett Kell



OUR PERSONAL LIVES SHOULD REFLECT CHRIST'S MODEL OF MINISTRY



BEING BEFORE DOING : We will create who we are!
“Follow me as I follow Christ”

1. Christ’s primary ministry was to the Father, and ours should be as well. Everything flows from this place.

3. Christ had Peter, James and John as His most intimate disciples. We too should have relational priorities. For marriages and families, they would be priority before ministering to others.

12. Christ had 12 disciples. Who are those that we are pouring our greatest time and energy in to? They should be the most receptive and willing.

70+. Christ had the “70” and the multitudes He ministered to as well. Our lives should be lived as a gift to others.

BEING BEFORE DOING: People will follow who you are more than what you say! Our primary way of creating disciples is personally “being what we want to see.”

FAMILY IS GENERATIONAL

We say often at Freedom Church, “there is no junior. Holy Spirit,” meaning **all generations can know and share Christ!** In addition, we believe that generations should minister to one another. Young adults should be in relationship with older adults who can guide and mentor them. Youth should be leading by example children, etc.. Elders of the faith should be honored and the “older should serve the younger.” **We are better together!**

Some ways we express our commitment to generations is by:

1. Hosting generation-specific ministries and outreaches to children and youth.
2. Encouraging young adults to integrate into Lighthouses, small groups and service.
3. Allowing children in the main sanctuary during service.
4. Hosting a quarterly “Generations service” in which all the generations celebrate together during the Sunday Celebration service.
5. In the future, we would like to expand our corporate ministry to our senior citizens and those in their final stages of life.

CORE FAITH:
 Spiritual Leadership

In the New Covenant, we all have become priests. Leadership is about serving the body to maturity. This is mostly expressed in the 5-fold offices of Pastor, Teacher, Evangelist, Apostle and Prophet.

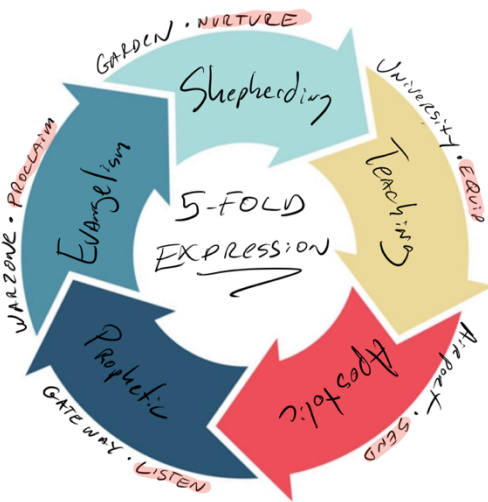
Read: Eph 4:12-16



FREEDOM IS FAMILY | KINGDOM FAMILY IS DIVERSE IN GIFTINGS & CALLINGS!

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DIVERSITY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS, OFFICES, PERSONALITIES AND CALLINGS can help us grow in a value for other's perspectives, which makes us

stronger than we would be if we gathered around people only like us. Spiritual Christ-centered unity is not the same thing as "uniformity." It's unity amidst diversity!



While we should all be of the same "mind" (Phil 2:2) toward one another but we should not be all of the same personality or ministry function. Biblical diversity creates health, life and vitality to a unified vision and mandate! **For Biblical diversity to function, HONOR** for

one another and the roles & assignments God has given must be deep in our culture.

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are **diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit. **5** There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. **7** **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:** **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. **1 Cor 12:4-11**

Our Expression



Our values and mission to host God's Presence and transform lives takes place through **3 PRIMARY expressions**. We celebrate, connect and pray!

CELEBRATE

Our **Sunday Services** are a time of celebration of what God is doing Mon-Sat! We share testimonies, pray for one another, share communion, worship and preach the truth with power!

CONNECT

Community is vital to our spiritual growth! "Personal Savior" doesn't mean isolated devotion! We meet in small groups throught the week in neighborhoods.. We call these "**Freedom Light Houses**"

PRAY

"My house shall be a house of prayer." Prayer is the engine of the church! We aim to make it an intregal part of our lives and culture at Freedom. Weekly we host our **Freedom House of Prayer** and School of the Spirit.

QUESTION 1: How does understanding the Father's love for us personally help us become a healthier spiritual family?

QUESTION 2: Are you currently being disciplined and making disciples? If so, how?