Walking in Freedom (part 2)

Lots of people shy away from surrendering to Christ because they are afraid they are not going to have any fun!

Then there are the Christians looking for the “mature quick” methods. (Looking at experiences to be the catapult to maturity.

There are plenty of “grow quick” gimmicks and emotional substitutes as opposed to a real spiritual walk.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

 **16**All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17**that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

1 Timothy 4:1–3 (ESV)

**4**Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, **2**through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, **3**who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

1. Don’t be judged by others - God is the Judge (Colossians 2:16-17)

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

1. The Law was to show our need for the Savior Jesus Christ. (The Law, festivals, food laws, etc. were pictures) Do you want to look at pictures of nice places or actually experience them?
2. No one is to pass judgement because that is questioning the efficacy of Christ’s fulfillment. (What God does is more than complete.)
3. We have been made whole, have the Word, prayer, faith.

Galatians 5:1 (ESV)**Christ Has Set Us Free**

**5**For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

* God looks in the heart of each of us, not outwardly. (Where our heart is/our treasure)
* For some reason, humans like to keep a scorecard. (What we need is faith)
1. Don’t be negated by the laws of man- (Beguiled/disqualified) **The rules of man can pull us away from our walk with God and cost us our walk with God**!

(2:18-19)

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

1. There are counterfeits- (emotionalism, signs, feelings, odd worship practices, outside of the biblical model) There **is a reason why I am a Baptist**.
2. False humility practices, and experiential worship instead of Word based, local-church ordained teaching,
* There really is no telling how much demon activity we can be introduced to. (Eve was beguiled and it disqualified her from the blessing that God had for her!).
* Jesus plus other things is no longer Jesus/ idolatry.
* These things tend to “puff people up”.
* If you are in real worship, humility! (My salvation, call to youth, ordination.)

c. Jesus is the head of the Church and does not need any help. (We simply rely on Him)

* No time for church, or no need, or church replacement is one way we are guilty of this.

**Remember last week- proper hydration, diet, rest, stress management**? Local church discipleship, Word, prayer, evangelism, faith is the spiritual process!

* There are experiences and programs to replace this/And they are not proper soul care!
1. Don’t be enslaved by philosophies of man- (Rules/self-denial to be more spiritual)20-23

If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

1. in the world not of/if we live in the Spirit walk in the Spirit (Living in relationship with God will not lead to failure! Don’t worry) **Don’t be an unbeliever but a believer**!
2. Don’t forget, God is the creator and created us and included pleasure (The problem is that it gets abused outside of His design/perverted by man.)

Eating a Quarter Pounder with cheese will not hinder your relationship with God, but it is not very healthy! Not eating it won’t make you closer to God!

* Some things can affect our testimony and so we refrain.
* Legalistic people seem very spiritual, but really are not nourishing their soul.
* Life in relationship with God doesn’t restrain us, it opens up our lives to new spiritual desires and ambitions that fulfill. (Working in the way we are designed)

2 Peter 1:4 (ESV)

**4**by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

**J Vernon Magee**- God wants you to rejoice in Him, and Christ wants you to be close to Him. And if you are going to walk with Him, my friend, you are going to have a good time!

1. Not religion of some bible and a mixture of vain philosophy. (Having the additions won’t make us successful but will make us a failure.

Conclusion

Tommy Higle- The flesh yearns for sensational: the spiritual yearns for the relational.

Don’t be led by rules, be led by God’s Spirit (Word, Faith, obedience, prayer, church growth and service)

Sometimes it seems revivals could be this…

John 8:36 (ESV)

**36**So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.