

Fire Pit Topic July: Personal Freedom

Definition: The power to live your life in the grace and freedom Jesus has secured for us through the cross and the resurrection. Embracing the adventure of life in the joy of the Lord. Contrasted to legalism and libertinism.

How to illustrate at the chapter meeting:

1. Ask, "are you free to be yourself"? Through Jesus we are freed from sin, but we also discover our real selves: the real you.
2. True freedom can never be achieved through any form of legalism: religion, performance, or doing all the right things.
3. True freedom can never be achieved through any form of libertinism: the idea that I am free to do what I want. This leads all of us back to bondage.
4. True personal freedom is the power and joy of living in practical union with Christ.

Fire Pit Discussion: Focus Group

1. Talk about the definition. Ask what some of the guys think of when it comes to personal freedom.
2. Historical events related to personal freedom:
 - a. When the American colonists were debating over whether to remain under English tyranny, Patrick Henry made this famous quote: "Give me liberty, or give me death."
3. References from the Bible:
 - a. Galatians 5: 1
 - b. Galatians 5: 13
 - c. Romans 8: 2
4. Illustrated in Jesus:
 - a. John 8: 31- 36
 - v. 32 truth makes us free
 - v. 34 sin steals our freedom
 - v. 36 the Son sets us free
5. Application: What is keeping you from the joy of freedom in Christ? Am I trying freedom through legalism or libertinism? Both will leave me empty.