

Jan. 1,
2012

TCC YOUTH

For Small Groups & Personal Study

Triangle Community Church
Student Ministry

Daily Exposure to
God's Word



Monday

1 John 1

What are some things that are hindering you in your relationship with God? Take some time to confess them to God and he will restore His relationship with you.

Tuesday

Romans 8:1-2

How does it make you feel that Jesus sets us free from Guilt & Condemnation?

Wednesday

John 8:31-47

What does Jesus say is the answer to us knowing the truth? (v. 31)

Thursday

John 14

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven? How does this give you freedom from the fear of death?

Friday

Mark 8:34-38

What are the things you are holding on in your life that is keeping you from Christ's call to freedom?

LOPSIDED CHRISTIANITY

PART 1: CHRIST'S CALL TO FREEDOM

Christ's Call to Freedom

When you think about it, there are many different kinds of freedom. Many in our world today long for **national freedom**. For example those living in Hong Kong want to be liberated from their nationalistic ties with China.

Others in the world are pressing for greater **civil freedom**; they want **broader civil rights and liberties**. We see this being played out right now in the Middle East in places like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Iran.

Still others long for **economic freedom**: freedom from **hunger, poverty, debt, and unemployment**. The entire continent of Africa struggles in this regard. The country of Greece has recently been in the news; it longs for economic freedom as it labors under crushing debt.

And of course everyone wants **personal freedom**.

Because the truth is you can enjoy all of these other freedoms — **national, civil, economic**, and yet still be in **personal** bondage. And that is certainly the case for those of us who live in America, the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We have national freedom. We enjoy great civil and economic liberties and yet despite these great liberties, many Americans feel personally **frustrated, unfulfilled, and unfree**.

If this sounds like you then I have good news for you.

By having personal freedom with a relationship with Jesus, your life will not be **Lopsided** to how God created for you to live. **Jesus came to give you personal freedom**. He came to set you free!

Group Questions

Connect

Think of a time that you wish your parents gave you more freedom. What would you have done with that extra freedom? Would that have been something that turned out good? Why or why not?

Read Christ's Call to Freedom on the front & Discuss.

How can having personal freedom keep your life from being LOPSIDED?

Dig

When our fellowship with God is out of sorts we can feel lopsided. What is the difference between our relationship with God and our Fellowship with Him?

*Read the Freedom From Guilt & Condemnation section and discuss.

Read Matthew 22"37-40. If we live this out would where does living for ourselves fit in?

What are some areas in our life where our selfishness comes out? Read & Discuss Freedom from Selfishness.

Read and discuss the Freedom from Fear and death Section. Are there times in your life that you have struggled with this fear?

Transform

"Have you met the great liberator Jesus Christ? Have you been set free from guilt and self-centeredness and fear of death?

Are you living your life today in love and service to God and others?

If not, then you are still in bondage to self. Allow Jesus to set you free. It is the purpose for which you were created.

Part 1: Christ's Call to Freedom

Scripture Memory for Lopsided Christianity Part 1:

*"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will **set you free.**"*

John 8:31-32

Freedom From Guilt & Condemnation

When every time you sin you struggle with feeling guilty and condemned, then you are Lopsided. 1 John 1:9 is telling us how to restore "fellowship" with God. In fact, the topic of 1 John is **how to walk in fellowship with a God who will never leave you or forsake you.**

Let me say this clearly: **Your relationship with God does not change when you sin.** You are still his son or daughter; he is still your Father. We do not confess our sin to God in order to restore our **relationship** with Him, but to restore our **fellowship** with Him.

What does it mean to confess our sin to God? It means that we agree with Him that what we did or said was wrong, and that based upon Christ's death and resurrection it is forgiven.

As we do that and begin to walk in the light of his Word, fellowship with God is restored. Because of Christ's sacrifice for us we can live before God with a clean conscience. No more guilt, no more condemnation.

I hope that you have found the remedy for your guilt in the person of Jesus Christ. If you haven't then please talk about it with someone.

"Jesus Calls us to Freedom & live the way He created us to live. His way's not Lopsided!"

Freedom From Selfishness

When your life is being guided by selfishness your are Lopsided. We think freedom means we get to do what we want to do. However, **true freedom is the exact opposite of what many people think it is.** Most people think freedom is "freedom from responsibility to God and others" **in order that I may live for myself and be free.**

But that isn't freedom! That's bondage to my own self-centeredness! True freedom is to be set free from my **silly little self** in order to **give myself in love to God and to my fellow human beings.** This allows us to live the way God created instead of a Lopsided Christianity.

Freedom from Fear of Death

When your thoughts are consumed with fear of death then your life is Lopsided. **Let me ask you a question. Do you fear death and what lies on the other side?** One thing is for certain... **Anyone who fears death is not free...**

At the cross, **Jesus conquered death for us.** Jesus was **condemned in our place, and he rose again from the dead** so that we could live forever in God's presence, **free from guilt and shame and condemnation.**

In fact, he has gone to prepare an eternal home for us. Listen to these comforting words from the lips of Jesus in **John 14:1-3. (Read together)**

This promise of **freedom from the fear of death** is available to everyone who is willing to place their trust in Jesus Christ as their sin bearer. Don't be lopsided, trust Jesus and remember He is preparing a place for you.