

FREEDOM IN LOVE

Sermon Series: "HEART. ..Unleashing the Passion and Character of God"

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1. LEARN TO BE WHO GOD CREATED YOU TO BE. ..BE

- YOURSELF!

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. [10] Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

[11] Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, [12] cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder [13] Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

[14] Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. [15]

Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. [16] Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

[17] Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. (18) If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. [19] Don't insist on getting even; that's, not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

*[20] Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he 's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will sup rise him with goodness. [21] Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good. **Romans 12:9-21 (Msg)***

2. LIVE FREE

*"The Lord has put his Spirit in me, because he appointed me to tell the Good News to the poor. He has sent me to tell the captives they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again. God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly [19] and to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness." **Luke 4:18-19 (NCV)***

*It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. **Galatians 5:13 (Msg)***

3. BE A SERVANT TO YOUR NEW LEADER

Then Moses said to the Lord, [16] "O Lord, the God of the spirits of all living things, please appoint a new leader for the community. [17] Give them someone who will lead them into battle, so the people of the Lord will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

[18] The Lord replied, "Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. [19] Present him to Eleazar the priest

before the whole community, and publicly commission him with the responsibility of leading the people. [20] Transfer your authority to him so the whole community of Israel will obey him. [21] When direction from the Lord is needed, Joshua will stand before Eleazar the priest, who will determine the Lord's will by means of sacred lots. This is how Joshua and the rest of the community of Israel will discover what they should do. "

*[22] So Moses did as the Lord commanded and presented Joshua to Eleazar the priest and the whole community. [23] Moses laid his hands on him and commissioned him to his responsibilities, just as the Lord had commanded through Moses. **Numbers 27: 15-23 (TILT)***

*So my son, throw yourself into this work for Christ. [2] Pass on what you heard from me-the whole congregation saying Amen!-to reliable leaders who are competent to teach others. [3] When the going gets rough, take it on the chin with the rest of us, the way Jesus did. [4] A soldier on duty doesn't get caught up in making deals at the marketplace. He concentrates on carrying out orders. [5] An athlete who refuses to play by the rules will never get anywhere. [6] It's the diligent farmer who gets the produce. [7] Think it over. God will make it all plain. [8] Fix this picture firmly in your mind: Jesus, descended from the line of David, raised from the dead. It's what you've heard from me all along. [9] It's what I'm sitting in jail for right now-but God's Word isn't in jail! [10] That's why I stick it out here-so that everyone God calls will get in on the salvation of Christ in all its glory. [I I] This is a sure thing: If we die with him, we'll live with him; [12] If we stick it out with him, we'll rule with him; If we turn our backs on him, he'll turn his back on us; [13] If we give up on him, he does not give u p for there's no way he can be false to himself: **2 Tim. 2:1-13 (Msg)***