

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Slave Set FREE, Now Freely ENSLAVED
January 22, 2012
Romans 7:25 - 8:16

- 1.) The sermon title was 'Slaves Set FREE, How Freely ENSLAVED!' If you were going to explain this concept to a kindergartener how would you explain it?

APPLICATION: Often 'explaining' things to others helps us to hone and refine how we understand them. Explaining those same things to children forces us to speak only about the essence of what we are discussing. It is a difficult exercise, but helpful.

- 2.) Think back through the previous two messages in this series. What have we been set free FROM? Secondly, what have we been set free FOR?

THEOLOGICAL CONNECTION: Where else is this same concept taught in Scripture? Where else does Paul teach the same thing?

- 3.) Romans 7 gives us a picture of a very double-minded man. The illustration of Gollum/Smeagol was given. In what ways are we like that? How does that reality make the declaration of Romans 8:1 that much more startling?

HINT: Take the phrase 'Therefore there is now...' and fill in all the blanks you might expect to hear after the declaration of the end of Chapter 7. Go back and read 7 it will be helpful.

- 4.) How do Christians sometimes act like we have spiritual 'Diplomatic immunity'?

PERSONAL REFLECTION: Do you see this in your own life? Where have you given yourself permission, even in the smallest ways to sin? NOTE: we NEVER 'give permission' to ourselves we are much more subtle. We actually just 'excuse' our sin in subtle ways like saying 'all people are sinners' or 'nobody's perfect' or turning on others and pointing out their immense sin to draw attention away from us.

- 5.) Look back at the text in 8:9 and following and answer this question, "What is your NEW native tongue?"

DEEPER: How does that look in your life? Do you more profoundly notice the dialect of depravity or the syntax of the Spirit? Do you think it is a valid application to make when we encourage people to consider their salvation if they see no Spiritual syntax in their lives?

- 6.) The slave Esca used his freedom to serve MARCUS. He did so AFTER he was set free. How is this like us in our relationship with Christ? What was Esca's service based on prior to his release? Did his behavior radically change or was the more radical change in his motivation FOR his behavior? Draw parallels between this and our own spiritual lives.



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