

polarizing

/poh-luh-rye-zing/

SERMON DISCUSSION

But I Have Rights!

Or Do I?

Quotable Moments:

- Difference is inevitable. Division is a choice.
- Jesus was the King who came to reverse the order of things.

Scripture: Galatians 5:1, 6b, 13-15

Key Things You Heard:

- Is there a notable difference between Republican/Democrat Jesus followers and Republican/Democrat non-Jesus followers?
- Jesus teaches very clearly that our influence on the world is directly tied to the unity we display.
- There is nothing wrong with having freedom that is centered on protecting me and my rights, but it is not the highest form of freedom.
- American freedom is freedom from...it's centered on protecting me and my rights.
- Christian freedom is freedom for...it's centered on serving you and your needs.
- Serving one another creates unity with one another.

Pray: Jesus, thank you for the freedoms that we enjoy. Thank you for the confidence I can have in my relationship with you because of your finished work on the cross. Help me to live daily understanding I don't only have a freedom from, but more importantly a freedom FOR. I now understand that the only thing that counts is expressing my faith in love. Help me to live FOR others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Moving Forward:

- Repent of any sin of disunity in your life.
- Commit to disagree politically, love unconditionally, and pray for unity.
- Read **Until Unity** by Francis Chan
- Read **Not In It To Win It** by Andy Stanley
- Re-watch and/or share the sermon with a friend.
Go to rivertown.cc or the RCC App.

Questions for Group Discussion:

First Minutes: How would you complete this sentence?
"American freedom is freedom from _____?"

- As a group, make a list of the freedoms that we, as Americans have. Think about freedoms professionally, financially, and personally.
- Read Galatians 5:6. Why do you think the Apostle Paul states this so directly and leaves nothing vague? In what other ways have you sought to express your faith, other than this one thing?
- Paul said "Because of what Jesus did to make our relationship with God right -- we don't have to worry about whether we are in or out with God." What security does this give you in your faith?
- Read Galatians 5:13-15. For a follower of Jesus, what is the purpose of any freedom that we have? How does this change your perspective of your freedom?
- The following are personal reflection questions. Have each person choose one to share their answer with the group.
 - How have you created damage by using your American freedom selfishly in the past few weeks or months?
 - What reaction have you justified recently on the basis of American freedom instead of Christian freedom?
 - Who do you need to apologize to for using your freedom selfishly?
- How can our group take action together to be FOR our community? Consider planning to be FOR workers in a local business, serve together to meet a need or surprise people with generosity.