

Love & Freedom Go Together Sermon Notes

Main Point - At the heart of God's character lie the twin values of Love & Freedom.

Passages for consideration - Genesis 3 - The Fall; Galatians 5:13ff

Commandments - Love at the heart!

““You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing **lovingkindness** [*chesed* - 176 times as *lovingkindness*] to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Exodus 20:4–6 NAS95)

“Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in **lovingkindness** and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”” (Exodus 34:6–7 NAS95)

1. Intro - **Most famous love story?** - Romeo & Juliet written by William Shakespeare
 1. This story poses the challenge that to truly be free and in love requires sacrifice.
 2. Closing Narration - “For never was a story of more woe Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.
2. The problem - Sin caused us to lose our on love & freedom
 1. Genesis 3 - The devil lied about God's character & offered a false idea of freedom.
 1. That false idea still challenges us in this world today, freedom does not mean an absence of authority.
3. **Bullet** - “At the heart of God's character lie the twin values of Love & Freedom”
4. Assumptions - God loves His creatures
 1. Genesis 2 - Proximity to Adam during creation implies intimate connection - “breath of life”
5. **Love** -
 1. Definition -
 1. “an intense feeling of deep affection”
 2. “a great interest and pleasure in something”
 3. Hebrew - *Ahaba* -
 1. “*There is little variation in the basic meaning of this verb. The intensity of the meaning ranges from God's infinite affection for his people to the carnal appetites of a lazy glutton.*” - TWOT
 4. Greek - Four plus verbs
 1. Eros
 2. Phileo
 3. Storge
 4. Agape
 1. “Charity” - King James Version of 1 Cor 13
 - 5.
 2. **Value** - The Supreme Ethic according to Jesus in **Matthew 22 & Luke 10**
 3. departures from the ideal

1. Worldly counterfeits - Oral History, mythology of the diety pantheon across cultures, media pictures to emulate
2. **Self-love** - Isaiah 14:12-14
4. **God's Character** - Revealed in Christ Sacrifice - John 10:17
 1. Quote: "Jesus said, "Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again." John 10:17. That is, "My Father has so loved you that He even loves Me more for giving My life to redeem you. In becoming your Substitute and Surety, by surrendering My life, by taking your liabilities, your transgressions, I am endeared to My Father; for by My sacrifice, God can be just, and yet the Justifier of him who believeth in Jesus." - SC 14
5. **Page from MeHarry** - "God's Perfect Love"
6. **Freedom**
 1. **Definition** - New Oxford American Dictionary
 1. "the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint:"
 2. "the power of self-determination attributed to the will; the quality of being independent of fate or necessity."
 2. Greek - eleutheria; from 1658; freedom (legitimate or licentious, chiefly moral or ceremonial): — liberty.
 1. Ancient Ideas
 1. Contrasted to Slavery which was a very common practice
 2. For Plato & Aristotle, freedom is essential to a state, i.e. freedom is freedom within the law & law protects freedom
 3. Implies equality of voice, honor, dignity, & power
 4. It breaks down when promoting individual development; the law of the self replaces the law of polity & is a door to tyranny
 2. Freedom & the law of nature -
 1. "For true liberation of this kind, there has to be liberation from the passions that represent the world in us."
 3. **Value** -
 1. Biblical freedom is expressed in love, not in isolation but in a life with others.
 2. Freedom in Service - Romans 6:18ff
 3. Love is an expression of the Fruit of the Spirit which leads to freedom - Gal 5:22ff
 4. Being Free, we accept civil obedience - Matthew 17:24ff; 1 Pet. 2:13ff
 5. We renouce rights for the sake of others - 1 Cor. 9:19
 6. Freedom is not a basis of superiority but consider the consciences of others
 7. We crucify ensnaring passions & demands.
 8. Yet, the surrender of desires is not restrictive or self-assertive - 1 Cor. 7:20ff
 9. Freedom from sin & the law results in freedom from death!
 10. Freedom allows us to love God's law - Psalm 119:47
 4. **Departures from the ideal**
 1. worldly counterfeits
 1. Each governmental ideal seeks to elevate this value
 2. Oppressive Regimes
 3. Departure from original definition of freedom
 2. **Self-freedom** - delusional & at the heart of sin
 5. **God's Character** - Revealed in His allowance of Sin/Blight -
 1. The gospel revealed in Hosea's prophetic life and message
 1. "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images. I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them. I drew them with cords of a

man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.” (Hosea 11:1–4 KJV)

6. **Illustration** -

1. The Hymn “America”

One bleak day in February 1832, a young theological student sat in his room at Andover Seminary. Samuel Francis Smith was going over a sheaf of German songs for children, given him by a friend, the composer Lowell Mason. Sunset shadows crept into the room and Smith was tired from a strenuous day of study. He was relieved to spend a few relaxed moments going over his friend’s music.

As he hummed over one after another, one struck his fancy. He glanced at the words at the bottom of the page and his knowledge of German told him that the words were patriotic, but they did not appeal to him. He decided to write his own words. He searched around on his desk until he found a scrap of paper, about five or six inches long and two-and-one-half inches wide. On this, as he tapped out the rhythm of the music, he began to write,

My country, tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims’ pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.
—America

2. Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations : A treasury of illustrations, anecdotes, facts and quotations for pastors, teachers and Christian workers. Garland TX: Bible Communications.

7. **Love & Freedom combined in God’s character**

1. “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13 NAS95)

2. Origin allowance for freedom - **Genesis 3**

1. Consequences explained
2. Merciful investigation & sentence
3. Covenant Relationship with His people
4. Covenant sealed in Christ

1. “The disclosed freedom from death is its future enacted in Christ. It will be known here and now only as a sign in the works of freedom that manifest it. Thus those who have the Spirit working freedom in them long and sigh for the release from carnal existence and the manifestation of the children of God which mean that creation itself is set free from bondage and obtains the glorious liberty of God’s children.” - TDNT

3. **Application** -

1. Seek the twin values of God’s character of love & freedom
2. Realize that this world will never offer those values.
3. Ask God to show you where love & freedom are needed in your life

8. **Appeal Story** - “AMAZING LOVE, AMAZING GIFT”

Imagine a couple who would like to get married. They have come to love each other and they want to spend the rest of their lives together. However, the young lady has a secret she has kept from her fiancé. She is afraid that he would not want to marry her if

he really knew the truth. However, she knows she must tell him, for he would find out eventually. So she arranges a time to meet with him to share her secret.

By the time their date begins, the young man is very worried. He wonders why his best friend is so concerned. After struggling over her words, she finally says, "I love you very much and want to spend my life with you, but there is something you must know. And if you don't want to marry me after I tell you this, I will understand. I have a \$100,000 debt with nothing to show for it." Her fiancé takes a deep breath and pauses while he thinks. Finally he says, "Honey, I have come to love you. I want to spend the rest of my life with you. We will face that debt together. I still want to marry you!" Tears come to both of their eyes as they realize the honesty and commitment that was just shared. They continue with their wedding plans, get married and go on their honeymoon.

While they are on their honeymoon, the husband says, "Honey, there is something I really need to tell you that I haven't shared before."

"What! How can this be?" the Bride wonders. "After all, I was willing to share my worst secret. What is he hiding from me?" Then she remembers how gracious he was toward her, so she calms down.

The husband continues, "I have ten million dollars in the bank. I didn't want to tell you, for I didn't want you to marry me for my money." He then writes a check for \$100,000 and gives it to his wife. And since they are married, she moves from being way in debt, to being a millionaire.

9. Benediction & Prayer

God's Perfect Love

1 John 4:8, 17-19; John 15:12

God's perfect love includes all four aspects of love listed on the outside. A growing understanding of His perfect love enables us to grow into maturity and love others as He has loved us.

3. Healing Reconciling Love

Luke 4:18; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; 1 John 1:9; Rom. 2:4; 5:9-11; 12:1,2; Rev. 3:20

The goodness of God leads us to:

1. Embrace God's forgiveness;
2. Repentance, confession, surrender to God
3. Be born of the Holy Spirit
4. Be transformed by the renewing of our minds

2. Convicting Disciplining Love

Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 8:5; 28; 2 Sam. 7:14; John 16:7-15; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 3:19

God convicts us of:

1. Sin and evil;
2. Righteousness;
3. Judgment with loving discipline

Loving others as Jesus loves us

Jesus' love motivates us to live for the glory of God and be a blessing to others.

1. Jesus gave His life as a ransom for all
2. He redeemed us from the curse of the law
3. Everyone is free to choose to live with Jesus now and forever or to perish.

4. Transforming Abiding Love

John 13:34,35; 14:12-18; 15:1-12; Gal. 5:22,23; 2:20; Rom. 12:2; Matt. 5:14-16; 11:28-30

1. Unconditional Redeeming Love

1 Tim. 2:5,6; Gal. 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:14; Col. 1:12-14; John 3:16; Rom. 3:23,24; 5:6-10; 18; 1 John 5:10-13

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