

Freedom Little Red Wagon

2-12-23

Our Legacy: (Each statement we make with a smile.)

- **God speaks today – Jeremiah 3:33**
- **Scriptures are God Breathed – 2Timothy 3:16**
- **Jesus loves us and died for us – 2Corinthians 5:21**
- **Faith is hearing God then obeying – Hebrews 11:8**
- **Holy Spirit is God in the man – 1Corinthians 3:16**
- **Freedom, The Little Red Wagon – Galatians 5:1**
- **Male leadership exalts the woman – Ephesians 5:25**
- **Holy Fire Tools are Gifts of the Spirit – 1Corinthians 1:8**

Embracing these truths will enable us to dismantle, neuter, and defeat anything Satan throws at us. These messages redirect the conversation to Jesus who holds the answer to all questions of mankind.

#6 Freedom, The Little Red Wagon

Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Freedom and the Little Red Wagon is a review from 2013. This is a message which impacted our very core as a church and is evident in our personal Christian walk to this very day. To explain “Freedom” as an integral part of our Christian reality, God gave us the vision of “The Little Red Wagon”! We felt this teaching so important that we had it on our church sign, on our bulletins, on our website, and our visitor welcome brochure. In 2013 we even gave everyone a gift of a “Little Red Wagon” thumb drive.



The Little Red Wagon describes our Christian experience. First, when we accept Christ, we are in the wagon bed eternally secure. **All Christians are in the wagon.** Not a Christian, not in the wagon. Second, we receive the Holy Spirit represented by wheels on the wagon. Last week's message titled "God in the Man" about the Holy Spirit describe the wheels on the wagon. With wheels we have power to live the Christian life. All Christians receive the Holy Spirit when we believe on Jesus. **However, many Christians don't live like they have wheels on their wagon.** Third, when we accept Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit we are "Free" represented by the Lynchpin that holds the wheels on the wagon. (Freedom is the lynchpin inserted crosswise through the end of an axle – or – defined as something that serves to hold together the elements of something complex.) **The Lynchpin of Freedom keeps the wheels from falling off the wagon.**

Lose Freedom, we lose power, and we are doomed to powerlessness!

Galatians 5:4 (ESV)

You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

We who are trying to be justified keeping the Law, by being religious have been alienated from Christ. We have been severed from Christ. We have fallen away from grace the favor and power of God. The wheels have come off the wagon. This is so appalling that Paul himself declares that he does not focus on the law, rules and religion. Paul said 4 times in 1Cor.6:12 and 10:23, "Everything is permissible for me." What is permissible for Paul? "EVERYTHING"

When we "focus" on the Law, Religion, Rules, Regulations and Formulas, **we destroy freedom and quench the Spirit of God.** We lose power. **The Law, Religion, Regulations, Rules, and Formulas pull off the Linchpin of Freedom and the wheels fall off the wagon. But Christ put an end to the Law.**

Romans 10:4 (ESV)

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Freed from the Law, we live by embracing the power of the Holy Spirit. The outward Law doesn't control us, but it is the inward presence of the Holy Spirit who transforms us to behave like Jesus. We live by our relationship with Christ.

2 Cor 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

This does not relieve us of our human responsibility to read, study and learn. All this is necessary to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as HE transforms our behavior. **However, there is no power in the Law!** In fact, relying of the Law destroys the Lynchpin of Freedom and the wheels fall off the wagon. **Only by the Holy Spirit do we have power.** Last week's message.

Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

But I say, walk* by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

*be occupied with

Galatians 5:18 (ESV)

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

If we live* by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

*to be alive

Freedom is a great liberating truth allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us and empower us to behave like Jesus.

#6 Freedom, The Little Red Wagon. Jesus said:

John 3:7 (ESV)

Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again."