



Grace Multiplied

New Freedom



Class Outline

October 1
Class Introduction

October 8
New Birth
(1 Peter 1:1-12)

October 15
New Life
(1 Peter 1:13-2:3)

October 22
New Purpose
(1 Peter 2:4-12)

October 29
New Freedom
(1 Peter 2:13-25)

November 5
New Relationships
(1 Peter 3:1-12)

November 12
New Confidence
(1 Peter 3:13-22)

November 19
New Urgency
(1 Peter 4:1-11)

November 26
New Reality
(1 Peter 4:12-19)

December 3
New Humility
(1 Peter 5:5-7)

December 10
New Destiny
(1 Peter 5: 1-4, 8-14)

Grace Multiplied:

Christian Growth & Impact

New Birth

- New Disposition
- New Appetite
- New Capacity
- New Inheritance & Destination

New Life

- Our new life in Christ is different from our old life we used to live
- We are to lead a life of Holiness




Grace
Multiplied:

Christian
Growth &
Impact

New Purpose

- Built Together
- We are a Kingdom outpost for God's Presence
- Testimony of our lives → the testimony of our word

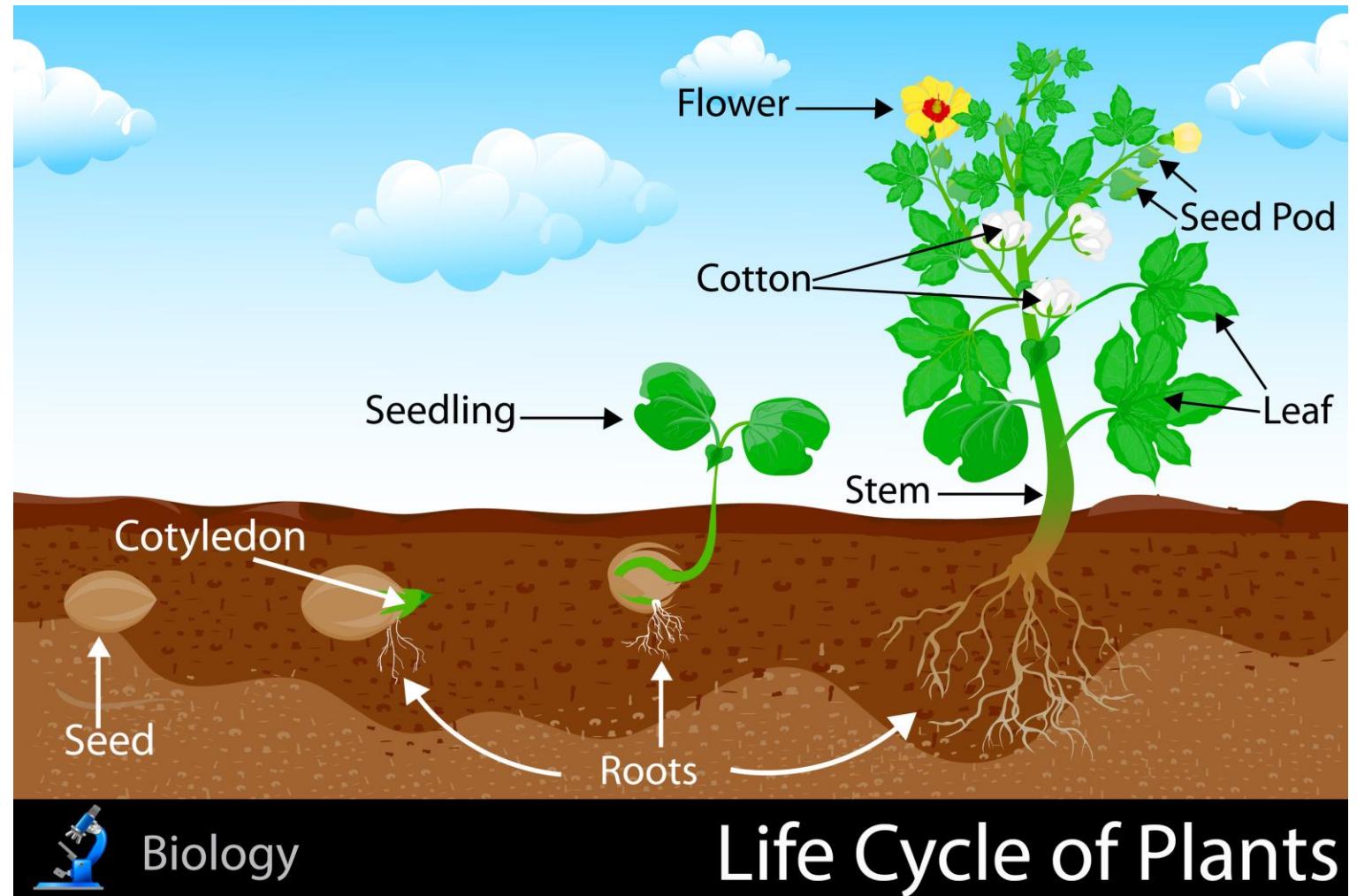
Impact on the World

- New Freedom
 - New Relationships
 - New Confidence
- 

Matthew 13:30-32

³¹ ...“The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

Plant Analogy



Impacting the World and Reaching Highly Resistant People

Using our Freedom to act redemptively
in situations of division and conflict

1


Praying effectively \leftrightarrow Godly
Relationships

2

Explaining the good new of Jesus with
Words

God's Purpose for His Church

Our challenge is to live lives in such a way that highly resistant people will come to glorify our God



As our world becomes increasingly hostile to Christ – it is how we act and speak that opens a path for people to come to Christ?

1 Peter 2:13-17

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperors supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Theme

Our new birth gives us the freedom to make different choices that can impact a world filled with conflict

Questions

What does it mean to be free in our culture?

01

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What it means to be free as a Christian?

02

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How can we impact a world filled with conflict?

What does it mean to free in our culture

Financial
Freedom

Relationship
Freedom

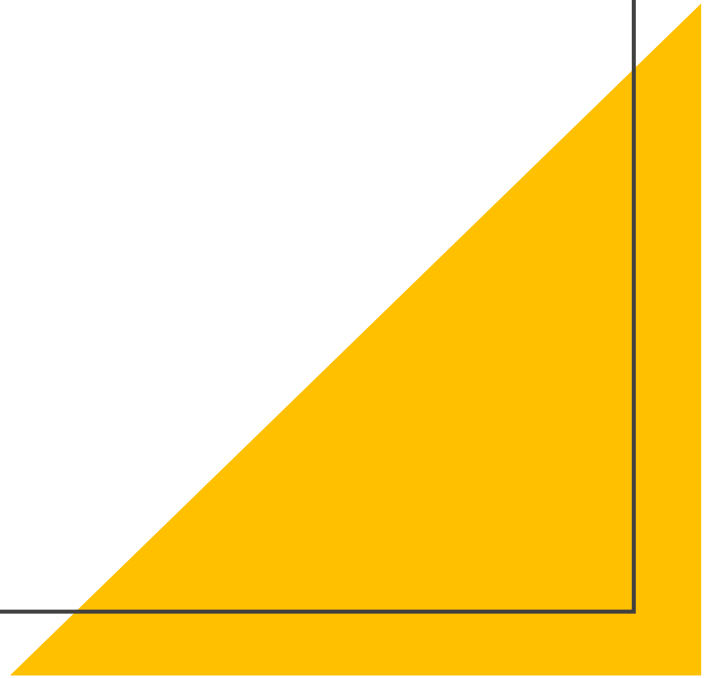
Work
Freedom

Gender
Freedom

Political
Freedom

Our Cultures Definition of Freedom

I am free to pursue my wants, needs, desires
and opinions without consequence




Peter's Context

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperors supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

- Peter makes it clear he is not talking about freedom from earthly institutions of power
- Christian's freedom is not limited due to their status with a particular culture, country or political system

Peter's Context

- By Western Standard, Peter's first readers did not enjoy any where near the freedom we enjoy today.
 - They were experiencing:
 - Exploitation at work (slaves)
 - Political Injustice
 - Social Injustice
 - Difficulties at home - Wives married to non-Christian husbands
 - How can you have freedom if you are persecuted, exploited and unhappy?
- 

There is no Freedom without Jesus

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed

(John 8:34-36)

- Sin makes us slaves and robs us of our Freedom
- Jesus set us free from sin
- Before we were born again, our responses are hardwired
 - Political and social oppression → perpetual conflict
 - Exploited at work → filled with hatred
 - Unhappy at home → Leave
- Because of the Freedom purchased by Christ → Christian should make different choices

What is our Freedom

The freedom to make different choices

God has gives us a new disposition, appetite and capacity

Instead of responding with our old sinful nature, we now can respond based on what God has done for us in Christ

Jesus is the example of how this new freedom allows us to make different decisions

1 Peter 2:21-25

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

New Freedom in Christ

Choose Integrity

Chose not to make threats

Choose not to retaliate

Choose to trust the Judgement of God

Chose to Act Redemptively

Choosing Integrity

²² He committed no sin; neither was deceit found in his mouth.

- There are times when telling the truth can get us in serious trouble.
- When we are faced with a situation like that – the pressure for lies and deception to save your own skin are overwhelming
- Early Peter called us to not conform to this world
 - 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance
- Through our new birth, we now have the freedom to say no when we are tempted to compromise our integrity

Refusing to Make Threats

- When he suffered, he made no threats – (verse 23)
- Threat involve carry an unhealed wound into the future
- We have the freedom to choose to absorb the wrong and cut off the cycle of violence and absorb the suffering
- Christ did this for us – so we can do it for others

Choosing not to Retaliate

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate – (verse 23)

- If you have ever been in situation where you have been humiliated, robbed of your dignity and made to look foolish, you will know the desire for revenge is overwhelming
- Even the worst humiliation we experience does not compare with what Jesus faced.
- He went from the greatest seat of power, at God's right hand, to the cross.
- He had angel armies at his disposal, but he used his freedom to choose a different path.
- He has put us in the position to make another choice too.

Choose to Trust the Judgement of God

- He entrusted himself to who judges justly (verse 23)
- Jesus did not take justice into his own hands
- God is just God – our sense of justice is there because God has put it there
- God has set a day that there will be justice for all the evil that has been committed.
- We should be thankful that it is not in our hands.
- We have the freedom to let him pass judgement just as Jesus did

Chose to Act Redemptively

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (verse 24)

- Peter gives us the solution to hurts and wounds of this world filled with conflict
- Instead of reflecting the pain back on those who hurt us we can absorb the pain ourselves.
- This is what Jesus did and we have been born again because of it.
- Christians are the only people in the world who have that kind of freedom to follow his example

Following Jesus Example

- Christ Suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps (verse 21)
- We should be committed to justice and truth which can lead to confrontation and discipline
- We also should have compassion and grace
- Each situation requires wisdom and a different choice
- However, the question we must always ask is what course of action is going to bring the best chance of seeing God's grace break through in the life of the person who is in great darkness.
- This is how Christ dealt with you and you now have the freedom to follow His example with others

How much of a difference would it make if we choose this path?

Choose
Integrity

Chose not to
make threats

Choose not to
retaliate

Choose to trust
the Judgement
of God

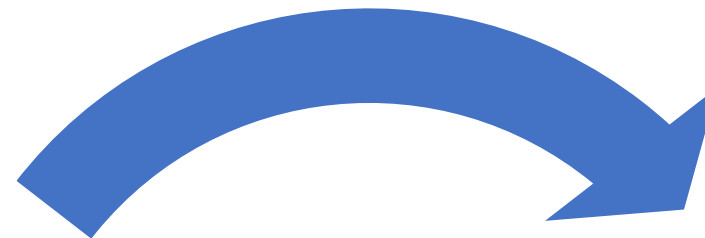
Chose to Act
Redemptively

Next Week

How are your
prayers and your
relationships tied
together?

Relationships

Prayer



Next Week

Topic: New Relationships

Passage to Study - 1 Peter 3:1-12

Passage to Memorize - 1 Peter 3:8

- 8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.