



Week 10 | Slaves No More | July 5, 2015

Opening Up:

1. Are you a creative person? If so, how are you creative? If you do not consider yourself creative, choose an adjective to describe what kind of person you are.
2. If you were a painter and you painted a picture that perfectly described you, what would it look like? What colors would be used? What images would be in this picture? What actions or themes would be obvious? What might be a subtlety in the painting there?

Reference: Exodus 40:20-38

Discuss:

1. Exodus begins in slavery and ends in worship. Worship is learning to depend on God most of all. What “false gods” slip into the role of being most important in your life? That is, do you ever prioritize work, relationships, or family above your relationship with God? Do you ever prioritize a hobby or a sinful behavior over God? Why do we do these things?
2. Think about Dr. Cooley’s “Looking Glass Self.” How is it true that “you see yourself the way you think the most important person in your life sees you?” If God became most important to you, how would it change how you see yourself?
3. In light of the fall narrative in Genesis 3, when faced with your own sin or shortcomings, are you more likely to shrink back and hide or to work hard and cover up? Explain.
4. In John 1:14 we find that Jesus is the true and better Tabernacle. He is the true bridge from where we are to where we ought to be. The tabernacle was a bridge between man and God. Now Jesus is that bridge. How does the finished work of Jesus address our tendencies to hide from our sin or to work at covering it up?
5. How is it true that “we need to be both known and loved, but we settle for just being loved?” How does it make you feel knowing that God knows you and he loves you anyway?
6. In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 we find that we are the temple of God’s Spirit. How should this change the way you feel about yourself and your mission in the world?
7. Francis Schaeffer wrote, “...the temple was to be filled with art work... The temple was covered with precious stones for beauty. There was no pragmatic reason for the precious stones. They had no utilitarian purpose. God simply wanted beauty in the temple. **God is interested in beauty.** Do we understand the freedom we have under the lordship of Christ and the norms of Scripture? Is the creative part of our life committed to Christ? Christ is the Lord of our whole life and **the Christian life should produce not only truth-flaming truth-but but also beauty.**” You are God’s beautiful work of art. You are his temple. If you were to write a beautiful “next act” in the drama that is your life, what would you write? How would it glorify God and serve others? (encourage one another to dream big here)
8. If someone were to ask you to explain the hope that you have in Jesus, what would you say? If that person asked, “what difference does this hope make,” what would you say?
9. Pray.