

2025-02-23 – Beyond the Rules: Finding True Holiness

Summary

Pastor Thomas continues his look at what it means to be a Free Methodist. In this sermon he discusses the Free Methodist Church's emphasis on freedom from sin and the pursuit of holiness. He explains that holiness means being set apart and different from the world, not through following strict rules but through the transformative power of Jesus Christ. Pastor Thomas emphasizes that freedom from sin comes not through our own efforts but through Jesus's sacrifice and the work of the Holy Spirit within a community of believers.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your word and what it means to be free from sin, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to Your truth. Help us to understand what true holiness means and how we can pursue it through Your strength, not our own. Guide our discussion and help us to encourage one another in our journey toward Christ-likeness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one habit or behavior you've successfully changed in your life? How did you accomplish that change?

Key Verses

Leviticus 19:2

Matthew 5:48

Hebrews 10:11-14

2 Peter 1:3-4

Questions

1. What does it mean to you personally to be 'holy' or 'set apart'?
2. How do you understand the difference between trying to achieve holiness through our own efforts versus through Christ's power?
3. In what ways have you experienced freedom from sin in your own life?
4. Why do you think community is essential in our pursuit of holiness?
5. How does focusing on Jesus rather than our sins help us in our journey toward holiness?
6. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our sanctification process?
7. How can we balance accepting God's grace while still pursuing holiness?
8. What are some practical ways we can encourage each other in our pursuit of holiness?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been trying to overcome sin through your own strength. Instead of focusing on the sin, commit to spending more time in prayer and Bible study, asking God to transform you through His power. Also, share this struggle with a trusted Christian friend who can pray with and encourage you.

Key Takeaways

- True holiness comes through Jesus's sacrifice, not our own efforts
- Sanctification is a process that happens in community with other believers
- We are freed from sin through Christ's power and the Holy Spirit's work
- Being holy means being set apart and different through Christ's love
- Our focus should be on pursuing Jesus rather than avoiding sin

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for freeing us from the bondage of sin through Your sacrifice. Help us to walk in that freedom, not through our own strength but through Your power working in us. Unite us as a community of believers who encourage and support one another in pursuing holiness. May we continue to grow more like You each day, remembering that You have given us everything we need for godly living. In Your name we pray, Amen.