

# KESSID SERMON NOTES



## Sermon

"The Life of Freedom"

## Date

12-30-18

## Speaker

Pastor Chris Potter

- You can connect in the right way, but have the wrong connector
- You can have the right connector, but connect in the wrong way

**If you stand back and look at the main themes of the New Testament, you see that in Jesus teachings the highest ethic is healthy relationships.**

- Rich Young Ruler – You have an unhealthy connection to your money and possessions
- Religious Leaders – You have an unhealthy connection to the law
- Disciples – You have an unhealthy connection to your own importance

**We are created, known, wounded, and healed in the context of relationship.**

**Love, when expressed in the right way and at the right time, creates the opportunity for freedom.**

*(Vs.) Galatians 5:1,4-6 (MSG) – Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you... 4-6 I suspect you would never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace. Meanwhile we expectantly wait for a satisfying relationship with the Spirit. For in Christ, neither our most conscientious religion nor disregard of religion amounts to anything. What matters is something far more interior: faith expressed in love.*

Ancient Greek had four words to describe the range of meaning that our word love conveys.....

- **Agape – Unconditional and Sacrificial Love**
- **Phileo – Friend Love**
- **Storge – Family Love**
- **Eros – Romantic and Emotional Love**

**Most of us have no idea how to live free...**

## **Freedom is a moving target...**

- Teenagers (The Tearing)
- Parents (Agape – later in life this switches)

## **The Church is to be a living example of this...**

**(Vs.) Galatians 5:13-15 (MSG)** – It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

***The free man is the one whose choices have given him the power to stand on his own feet and determine his own life according to the spirit in him. The slave is the man whose choices have destroyed all spontaneity in him and have delivered him over, bound hand and foot, to his own compulsions and illusions, so that he never does what he really wants to do, but only what he has to do.*** – Thomas Merton (S)

**(Vs.) Galatians 5:16 (MSG)** – My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness.

- Love does not insist on its own way... (Garden of Gethsemane)
- Worship – "it wasn't for you"

***The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our image.*** - Thomas Merton (S)

**(Vs.) Galatians 5:19-21 (MSG)** – It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.

**(Vs.) Galatians 5:19-21 (MSG)** – But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

**(Vs.) Galatians 5:19-21 (MSG)** – *Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.*

**Where am I not free? (S)**

- The fruit of love is freedom.
- Freedom doesn't always feel good
- Boundaries set us up to love well

**(Vs.) Luke 4:16:21 (ESV)**

**(Vs.) John 8:36 (NLT)** – *“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”*