

Friendship Group Discussion Questions 3/19/2017 (2 pages)

Sermon: "White Flag" – Rom. 6:16-23 NLT

16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. 17 Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. 18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

19 Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. 22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. What is one irrational fear you have (one that most people don't share) and one more universal fear you have?
2. Michael summarized Paul's words in Romans chapter 6 to be that "we don't realize there are only two paths in life. One is a life of temporary freedoms for eternal bondage. The other is one of eternal freedom in exchange for temporal obedience." What's a practical example in your life of continual sacrifice for a substantial, future reward?
3. When has there been a time in your life when you discovered that "not all freedom is good?"
4. Michael said that we all are taught a lie, that "we can be anything we want to be when we grow up but there's one thing that no one tells us: that we all lead lives of constant surrender." The first statement

seems powerful while the second seems weak and futile. Agree or disagree?

5. How can living with a white flag approach to life be more powerful than a checkered flag approach to life? How can it affect your work, family, and calling?
6. Michael closed with the story of his half empty airplane to the Middle East. Is there something that God is asking you to release your fear of for His glory and mission? Share what fears you'd like release from or what where God is convicting your heart that you need to grow in grace and trust.
7. Prayer focus: Remind the group of Michael's quote: "The best part of living a life free of fear isn't that you and your dreams become unstoppable (though that's what self-help gurus and even some pastors say.) It's that you are rightly knowing and valuing the sovereign God of the universe. It's that you are rightly worshipping, not out of emotion or self-interest but, instead, out of humility, peace, contentment, and unshakeable faith. So in the dark alleys and valleys of life, we fear no evil, because we are surrendered, by grace, to the good and almighty hand of God. Life is a constant journey of surrender." Pray for growth in His grace to live surrendered to the God who can be trusted.