



GREATER Greater Freedom

#npgreater

Week 3
3 of 4

July 18, 2021

Bottom Line: You have what it takes—Jesus is enough.

Icebreaker: What “old person” things do you do? 😊 What song are you most likely to rock out to on the radio when no one else is with you? Extra points if it is from when you were a teenager.

Key Verse: *Because you belong to Christ you are complete, having everything you need.* Colossians 2:10 ERV

Once we accept Jesus Christ as the forgiver of our sins and the leader of our lives, a change takes place. We have said goodbye to the habits, passions, and practices of the past. Because Jesus has restored our life, we are new creations, made in His image. We have what it takes to fulfill every role in life that God is asking us to fill. Paul assured the Colossians and us that because of Christ we have what it takes. One issue they faced that we still face is legalism. Paul understood it well because Paul built his life on legalism. He kept the rules and then made new rules to keep the rules. Then he realized that he couldn't keep the rules. He learned then that we can engage the world because we have what it takes to do everything God has called us to do, not because of rules. **GREATER FREEDOM IS REALIZED WHEN YOU...** **1) Realize your identity.** “*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ...*” (Colossians 3:1). **2) Renew your mind.** “*Seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth*” (Colossians 3:1b-2). **3) Recognize your new life.** “*For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory*” (Colossians 3:3-4). **4) Renounce your sins.** “*Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them*” (Colossians 3:5-7). **5) Release your pain.** “*But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator*” (Colossians 3:8-10). **6) Replace old habits.** “*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*” (Colossians 3:12-15). Is Jesus comfortable in your life? If so, there is peace. This is how you know you are on the right path. When you realize and experience how much God loves you, you will want to let go of everything that will get in the way. You have what it takes. Jesus is enough.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

How have you experienced Satan's attempts to make you believe you are not enough?

Scripture not only tells us who we are but whose we are. Jesus didn't die to make bad people good, but dead people alive. Jesus isn't your life coach, He is your Savior. Discuss. What difference does who Jesus is make to your identity?

You renew your mind by seeking and setting your mind on things above. This is the only way you can move away from the world's performance mode. You will love FROM acceptance, not FOR acceptance. How does teaching and training others renew your mind in this way?

God sees you as whole, complete, and righteous. You are no longer a sinner who sins—you are a saint who sometimes sins. Discuss. Some people believe this is a license or encouragement to sin. What do you think?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

God is not basing His relationship on our sin and struggle. He bases it on the work of Jesus, which is perfect. How does this lead to confidence?

What's your favorite sin? To renounce it, you must own it and then put it to death, making it powerless over you. Instead of our character being transformed, we just modify our behavior. We are always repenting but not renouncing. Renouncing is “when your heart relaxes its grip on anything else it thinks it needs other than God” (Tim Keller). Where are you in this process?

We get hurt in relationships, but we also get healed in relationships. You must release the pain and forgive. What does it mean, practically, to bear with each other? What happens when pain is released? Example?

Some of the things you are struggling with now God is using to prepare you for something later. Discuss.

How have you replaced the old with the new in your life? How have you found greater freedom?

NEXT STEPS

1. Set a definite time daily to realize your identity, renew your mind, and recognize your new life. Praise God for it all.
2. Ask God to help you recognize and renounce any sins that are still clinging to you. Move beyond simple repentance.
3. Release your pain through forgiveness where you have been hurt, and replace with new thoughts.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: You have what it takes—Jesus is enough.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: John 1:12

Tuesday: Romans 12:2

Wednesday: Romans 8:11

Thursday: Proverbs 28:13

Friday: Ephesians 4:31-32

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)