

# FREEDOM *Un*LIMITED

## JUST SAY NO

JUNE 21 | CRAIG REES

Romans 8:1-15; 13:8 • Galatians 5:3 • Mark 7:6-13

### **We are never freer than when, for the sake of others, we say “Yes” to God and “No” to things we are otherwise free to pursue.**

1. Pastor Craig suggested that there is a faith system involved in our struggle to say “yes” to God and “no” to things we are otherwise free to pursue. How does that faith struggle work its way out in your life?
2. God sent his Son to deal with sin in the flesh. Whereas God takes up the chisel and shapes us, the soldiers took up the hammer and nailed Jesus so that sin in the flesh could be destroyed. How has God been shaping you through COVID-19?
3. Paternity is the key to conduct. How easy is it for you to accept that you are a child of God? How does knowing whose child you are influence the decisions you make to live as the child of God you have become?
4. Pastor Craig suggested that it is a sign of inner strength to lay down a non-essential but nonetheless important thing for the sake of an essential relationship. What non-essential things have you had to lay down for the sake of an essential relationship? What helped you do this?
5. There is a difference between *the indwelling of* and *the infilling of* the Spirit. When we seek to control outcomes in our favor, we are walking in the flesh, not the Spirit, and we limit the Spirit’s control on our lives. What implications are there on a local church when her members insist on their own ways at the expense of pursuing ways that serve greater good of the church?
6. Using the example of Mark 7:6-14, Pastor Craig said that the challenge we face in navigating difficult issues is that each of us has a natural leaning toward traditions, philosophies, policies, and ideas that, while not wrong, can easily take us away from the law of love. Can you think of a tradition, philosophy, policy, or rule that was defended by Christians in a church you grew up in that bound people rather than set them free? [e.g. think about legalism]
7. Passionately protecting what is valuable to us is not wrong in and of itself. The problem is that without self-awareness and the Spirit’s help, our protectionist stance can result in us alienating the people we are called to love. How do you manage to straddle the tension between standing up for your position on things with loving the people around you?