



where the spirit of the lord is - there is *freedom!*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM THIS CURRENT SERIES:

WEEK 1: RELATIONSHIP OVER RULES

Jesus death and resurrection set humanity free! We can enjoy a new way to relate to God - a new relationship ... not a new religion. All religions point to three things: *you ought to, you don't you're toast*. Religion is about following the rules, but Jesus had something much different and better in mind. He calls us to relationship ... to follow Him ... to walk with Him.

THINK ABOUT THESE ...

1. Growing up, were you a rule-follower or a rule-breaker? How did your reaction to rules affect your relationships with your parents and siblings?
2. Did your family go to church when you were growing up? Was the experience more about following Jesus or obeying rules? How has that influenced your current view of church?
3. What do you find challenging about the idea that Jesus is more interested in you following Him than He is in you obeying rules?
4. **Read John 15:5** - How does the relationship of a vine with its branches differ from a relationship of rules?
5. **Read Galatians 5:17** - How have you experienced this battle between flesh and Spirit in your own life?
6. Does living free by following Jesus seem attainable? How do you envision church as a people - helping you approach your relationship with God from the perspective of following instead of obeying rules?



FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM THIS CURRENT SERIES:

THINKING REVOLUTIONARY ...

The Christian life is not a life of *imitation* -
it's a life of *impartation*—Jesus' life in you.

At the cross, the power of sin was broken and you have been set free. Jesus wants to live his life through you as you keep in step with His Spirit in you.

Refuse to interact with God on the basis of rules.

READ AND THINK ABOUT THESE WORDS (MEMORIZE THEM IF YOU CAN!):

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

*If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing."*

John 15 verse 5