

SHINE AND SHARE #6
RISKING RELATIONSHIP
Building Redemptive Friendships

“Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn’t take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I’ve become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn’t just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!” 1 Cor. 9:19-23
MSG

GOD SAYS ...

I AM FREE TO FOCUS ON OTHERS

“Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all...”

This is the shift God wants from his people because of their relationship with Him.

- My debt is cancelled
- My selfishness and sin atoned for
- My identity is settled
- My worth is secured
- My need for love and acceptance is met
- My future is set
- My purpose is defined
- My fears have been defeated

BIG IDEA: The inner security created by Christ and His love in a person produces an outer freedom to serve and relate to OTHERS. We stop living out of what we feel lack and we start living out of a surplus of love. As a result God’s love and presence starts arriving in other’s lives through US with a specific goal in mind.

“Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.” Matthew 10:7-8 MSG

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.”
Galatians 5:13 NLT

I AM FREE TO CONNECT WITH ANYBODY

“...in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever.”

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. ¹¹ But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?” *Matthew 9:9-11 NLT*

Watch Jesus and you will see a man who is secure in the Father and free to connect to anybody and he broke all the sociocultural rules of his day to do it. That was his super-power made possible by His confidence and security in God.

- Protected, defended, and connected with women
- He connected with the physically unacceptable
- He connected with the morally unacceptable
- He connected with the ethnically unacceptable
- He connected with the socially unacceptable

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’” *Matthew 11:19 NIV*

THIS IS JESUS → JESUS WAS IN PAUL → THIS WAS PAUL

THIS IS JESUS → JESUS IS IN ME → THIS IS ME

GOAL? PURPOSE? *“in order to reach a wider range of people”*

I AM FREE TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES

“I didn’t take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view.”

Entering the world of someone...

You go to them
You spend time with them
You do stuff with them
You engage activities foreign to you
You respect and learn about their customs
You do what you have to do to get some quality time, quality conversation, ask good questions, hear their heart, learn why they think the way think, why they do what they do
...SO THAT you can meaningfully bring your story, your world, your Jesus into their world meaningfully, credibly, and authentically

You dress up
You dress down
You dress accordingly

You eat stuff/drink stuff

You participate meaningfully

But it's gonna cost you – your time, your energy, your comfort, your pride, your presuppositions, your familiarity, your hang-ups... to secure their point of view so that you can share yours.

But above all you are going to have to take a risk... all redemptive friendships begin with someone taking a risk to introduce themselves and risking staying present afterwards

This is what God is calling his people to church – to risk relationship.

- Risk getting to know
- Risk giving up time
- Risk supporting
- Risk serving

Jesus took the risk of coming and being with us so that we might know the Father and his love.

THIS IS JESUS → JESUS IS IN ME → THIS IS ME

“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.” Mark 8:35 NLT

“And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away.” But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved. Hebrews 10:38-39 NLT

I AM FREE TO LEAD OTHERS INTO GOD'S LIFE THROUGH CHRIST

“I’ve become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn’t just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!”

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.”

Romans 10:1 NASB

The SAVED wants others SAVED from a present and future without God.

Father, it’s time. Display the bright splendor of your Son

So the Son in turn may show your bright splendor.

You put him in charge of everything human

So he might give real and eternal life to all in his care.

And this is the real and eternal life:

That they know you,

The one and only true God,

And Jesus Christ, whom you sent. John 17:1-3 MSG

The SAVIOR wants others SAVED from a present and future without God

When it comes to their efforts with people – a follower of Jesus knows their “WHY?”

As in... WHY are you making the efforts that you are making?

It is because of your deepest hope and desire that this person or group of people would be saved!

SAVED = a beautiful word – someone in mortal peril is rescued and now safe

How do we feel when watch someone get saved or rescued from potential death?

RESCUE – the Indonesian boys trapped miles into water filled caves

RESCUE – boat is sinking in high waves and the Coast Guard lowers the basket and they get in just in time

Christianity is a faith that involved the daring rescue of every person who claims the name of Jesus.

“He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.” 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

NLT

No matter who you are – any time anyone is rescued saved from death it becomes life defining. It reshapes their perspective and redefines purpose. Or at least you'd think it would.

Medal of honor survivors all say – I don't want their sacrifice to be in vain. Why? A person gave their life so that they could continue life. A new sense of stewardship and responsibility.

2 Corinthians 5:15

Galatians 2:20

Their life expresses their most significant experience. They were rescued and saved from death by the actions of another person. What does that look like?

Salvation reshapes our purpose

Salvation refocuses energy

Salvation redirects our expression... HELPING/LEADING OTHERS TO SALVATION

Know your WHY

“Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that’s what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions. Sooner or later we’ll all have to face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what’s coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad. That keeps us vigilant, you can be sure. It’s no light thing to know that we’ll all one day stand in that place of Judgment. That’s why we work urgently with everyone we meet to get them ready to face God. God alone knows how well we do this, but I hope you realize how much and deeply we care.” 2 Corinthians 5:9-11 MSG

3 TYPES OF PEOPLE

GET FREE

ACTION: CALL OUT

BELIEVING LIE

ACTION: GET IT OUT

BELIEVING TRUTH

ACTION: REACH OUT

**HOW? BY INTENTIONALLY BUILDING, GROWING, AND TAKING RISKS IN
REDEMPTIVE FRIENDSHIPS WITH NON-BELIEVERS**

**EASTER = PERFECT OPPORTUNITY/BEAST FEAST ...MAKING SPACES FOR YOU TO
DO EXACTLY THAT!**