* **Series Slide- “Deep Roots”- one we used last week**

If you have a phone, or a piece of pen and paper, pull it out. I’m going to ask you to write something down.

I want you to jot down what you think freedom is. (Yes even you folks at home. Pull out your phones, open up the notes section…and please don’t Google a definition. The point is that you see what you think, not what Google thinks- which is probably what you think BECAUSE WE ALL WATCHED THE SOCIAL DILEMMA OH MY GOSH ROBOTS ARE GOING TO KILL US ALL.

I’ll give you a minute.

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Now, I’m going to give you 3 options to raise a hand to- (you online folks, too- Pastor Joel is on there to see and respond to you).

Basically, your options will be a one, the other, or both.

Raise your hand if your definition of freedom is primarily a negative definition. In other words- it focuses on being freed FROM something.

An example would be anything that is about removing restraints. Being let out of prison. Getting rid of that pesky authority figure. Shaking off a despotic government.

Now- raise your hand your if your definition is a POSITIVE view of freedom. This means you are freed FOR something. The difference is sometimes very subtle. You can fly. You can play like a concert pianist. You can eat and not gain weight.

Now- raise your hand if your definition had both in mind- Negative and positive.

Here’s why your understanding of freedom is important.

We live in a age where we have all been shaped to understand freedom primarily in a negative sense.

In other words- freedom means getting rid of restraints. Commitments. Relationships- that limit your options.

Here’s a couple of ways this plays out in real life. The average age of marriage for Americans has drastically gotten over the last 50 years. More and more people are moving away from a lifelong commitment of marriage because we mainly have a negative view of freedom. It limits your options.

Teenagers are delaying getting their drivers license. Which, for me, was a symbol of positive freedom. When I turned 16, I could finally go to hangout with my friends. But now, driving limits our teenagers. Because they actually have to choose a destination. While their phones represent unlimited options of conversations.

FOMO- Fear of missing out is the result. A sort of omnipresent monitoring of social options- ironically, with little commitment to any hang out or party…so they can be virtually present at all the parties. Even when a 16 or 17 year old finally gets to a party- what are they doing?- Looking to the phone to give them freedom from their commitment- to see what else is going on- to make sure they aren’t missing something.

Then there is- of course- The Infinite Scroll.

* + Netflix- Ever spend 45 minutes looking for something to watch- and then just turn it off.
  + Facebook
  + You aren’t really committing to anything. There is always another option- just in view.

The strange thing about a negative view of freedom- is it often results in exactly the opposite of what you intend.

Here’s the way the Ancient Greek Philosopher Plato put it in his classic *The Republic-*

* **“The excess of liberty… seems only to pass into excess of slavery.”- Plato, *The Republic***

For the last 50 years- at least- Americans have largely been absorbing the idea of freedom through deracination.

Deracination means to cut off your roots. Or tear something up by the roots. Why? Because roots keep you in place. Roots mean commitment. Roots cut off other options.

Think about a tree with a negative view of freedom. It is deracinated.

“Roots- Nah man. I can’t put down roots. That would limit me. I like to blow around with the wind…see where life takes me. Don’t try to hold me down. Let me be free.”

You know what happens to that tree?- it shrivels up and dies.

But, with a negative view of freedom-

Imagine owning a garden. And one night, you wake up about 2 am because you hear some rustling around in your garden. So you go outside with a flashlight and you find that the plants are actively protesting.

They are pulling themselves up by their own roots and walking away. So you say, “What are you guys doing?”

“We’re tired of being tied down here. Doing the same thing over and over. We want to be free.”

You’d say back- “But you’re plants. You are supposed to leave your roots in the dirt and give off fruit. That’s what you are. Deracination isn’t how you live free- its how you die!”

And there’s the rub with a negative view of freedom. A true definition of freedom can’t be complete without an understanding of who you are- and what you’re made for.

The truth is- if you don’t understand what you are created to do. Who you are created to be- then you will live a life of keeping your options open. And you’ll see any sort of commitment- or deep attachment- as a threat to you.

**Title Slide- “Death to Deracination: How Being Rooted & Attached Sets You Free”- John 15 & Psalm 1**

Today we are starting a series that will take us to Thanksgiving.

This series is called “Deep Roots//Good Life”. The point is to invite you into a life that is rooted in Jesus.

This is going to be a practice based series. Which means- we are going to teach you actual practices that help you to put your roots down deep. To get the nourishment you need from Christ.

And we are going to show you practices that are a channel to live the Good Life. The one, that deep down, you know you are made for. A Beautiful life of love and generosity and kindness and sacrifice. The kind of life we all want, but we seem to resist because there is so much commitment involved.

But the most beautiful things come from commitment. I find very few people who look with disdain on a couple that’s been married for 70 years. Or parents who have gone the distance loving and caring for their kids.

So- if you aren’t used to homework in church- get ready.

I’m going to teach you how to put down deep roots….for a beautiful life.

* **John 15:1-17**
* **I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.**
* **2 Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.**
* **9 “As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.**
* **11 “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.**
* **12 “This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.**
* **17 “This is what I command you: Love one another.**
* **Psalm 1**
* **How happy is the one who does not**
* **walk in the advice of the wicked**
* **or stand in the pathway with sinners**
* **or sit in the company of mockers!**
* **2 Instead, his delight is in the Lord’s instruction,**
* **and he meditates on it day and night.**
* **3 He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams**
* **that bears its fruit in its season**
* **and its leaf does not wither.**
* **Whatever he does prospers.**
* **4 The wicked are not like this;**
* **instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away.**
* **5 Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment,**
* **nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**
* **6 For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,**
* **but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.**
* Putting down deep roots in Jesus means cutting of other options.

Its going to mean making a commitment. Today, my aim is to show you your need for Jesus…and the need to put your roots deep in him. And then starting next week…I’m going to teach you 2 practices every week. One to put down roots…the other is to share the Good Life that those roots produce with others.

So, one practice every week to connect you deeply with Jesus- the other to bless other people with that connection.

* **1) Deep Roots need deep attachment.**
  + When I say “attachment” I’m talking about relational attachment.
  + Think about that.
  + Roots deeply attach you to something.
  + Like Jesus taught here in John 15 that we are to be ATTACHED to him, like branches are attached to a vine.
  + Relational Attachment is a commitment to someone where you cut off your other options. It can happen on the surface- like going through a marriage ceremony or signing adoption papers- but deep relational attachment has to go beyond that for a good life to spring up.
  + If I were going to boil down the psychological and emotional idea of attachment down to one idea it is this.
  + **Attachment is being sure someone that loves you will never leave you.**

RELAXING INTO ANOTHER PERSON (

* + **John 1:18**
  + See Jesus in the bosom- John 18 (at the Fathers side)
  + At the last supper, John refers to himself like this- reclining at Jesus’ side.
* **Back to 1)**
  + ILLUS- 3 members of my family were started their lives with attachment challenges.
    - Keva- Dad left, Mom wouldn’t stop drinking
      * That meant that it took 10 years in our marriage…and her actively trying to push me away- before she was sure I wasn’t leaving. And we attached. She relaxed into me.
    - Micah and Isaac-
      * Micah- panicking anytime we’d go to the car to wait for him.
      * Isaac- wrestling match
  + This is what I think the OT word HESED and the NT word AGAPE mean.
  + HESED is a really difficult word to put into English and get all its meaning. Its often translated “Loving-kindness” or “Faithful love”
  + Agape is simply translated “love” in the NT.
  + My favorite definition for Hesed and Agape is actually from the Childrens’ bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones. The Jesus Storybook Bible.
  + **A Never-Stopping, Never Giving Up, Un-breaking, Always and Forever Love.**
  + Attachment is being sure someone that loves you won’t leave.

Now with that in mind…Look at what comes right before John 15 where Jesus uses this metaphor

* **John 14:1-14**

**“Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.**

**2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. 4 You know the way to where I am going.”**

**5 “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way? ”**

**6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”**

**8 “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.”**

* **9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.**
* **12 “Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**

**Back to 1)**

* + Question- can we go where you are going
  + “Know me”- intimate- not about information
  + I’m in the Father & the Father is in me
  + You are in me, and I’m in you
  + “I don’t speak on my own”- not about obedience in the way we think. Its not Father tells me what to do.
  + Its about attachment.
  + This is what social science calls MUTUAL MIND. Is the RESULT OF ATTACHMENT.
  + You look at each other and know what everyone is thinking.
  + Lets get out of here. When at a party with your spouse.
  + **Remember that scene in Return of the Jedi**? Where everybody nods at each other. It looks bad for everybody, but everybody has their trust in each other, Everybody knows their role. And nothing needs be spoken. Everyone knows and is known.
  + ILLUS: in front of my enemy, nodding over at Jesus- non-verbal
  + Then in chapter 15 where Jesus says ask whatever you want and it will be done for you- is about mutual mind attachment.
  + Its- when you attach to me- when you are confident and sure that I love you and I’m not leaving you- at that point you will start to develop a mutual mind with me- and from that mutual mind- good fruit will start coming off you for others to enjoy.
  + You’ll start living the good life.
  + I and my father are one. And you are one with the Father by being one with me.
  + But you have to root yourself. In me. And you must be sure I’m not leaving you.
  + How can you be sure-
  + The gospel according to Peter.
  + End chapter 13- Jesus says, “I know you are going to leave me. But I won’t leave you. In fact, What I’m doing- Im doing for you.”

Look at Jesus and you see God putting down roots in you. Clinging to you when we didn’t trust God’s love.

The cross is a dead tree. And Jesus is a shriveling vine on that tree. But he’s dying to give you life. He is trading places with you. He is taking the abuse…the abandonment…the punishment…the result of your running from God…so that you can know that God is deeply committed to his relationship with you. He deeply knows you…and deeply loves you. He wants you forever.

Now- the only thing left for you to decide…is will you put your roots in him.

Stop and pray.

* Transition: Now- to the practical.
* **2) Deep Roots need good habits.** 
  + When Jesus compares himself to a vine and us as branches that need to stay attached to him…I want you to notice something he does. A slight switch that he makes from the organic to the practical.
  + **John 15:4**
  + First he says the organic- Remain in me and I in you.
  + In other words, super relational yet undefined. Stay rooted. Enjoy me. Know me.
  + Ok. Great. But what do you do with that on a Tuesday morning? How do you PRACTICE THAT?
  + **John 15:7** 
    - Jesus says to let his WORD remain in us. In other words- what he tells us about God- his commands.
  + **John 15:9**
    - Then he says REMAIN- or put roots down- in my love.
    - In other words, if you want to be a branch that produces the GOOD LIFE
    - The nectar that flows into you from Jesus are his words… and his love.
* The Psalmist in Psalm 1 puts it this way.
  + **Psalm 1:2**
  + If you want the good life…the one like a deeply rooted tree that doesn’t get blown away by the wind. Meditate Day and Night on God’s word.
  + That is the description of a habit.
  + Meditate means to chew. To think about. To constantly be aware of.
  + Its that mutual mind with Jesus where you are presented with a situation…a choice…and you and Jesus are thinking together.
  + These are known as Spritual Disciplines or habits. Or …a rule of life…
* **Back to 2)**
  + SOUL HANDLES PROBLEMS
  + The problem- and I think the vicious cycle is that without attachment- many disciplines often feel empty, and don’t give the return necessary to carry on, yet it is those very disciplines that will form the attachment.
* In Psalm 1 there is all this talk about the WAY of the righteous and the WAY of the wicked.
  + Manner, custom, behavior,
  + To tread, tread down, **to bend the bow**. To press
  + A lot of us want the relationship with God that many people have…yet we are unwilling to do things over and over that bend us toward God.
* Because we have bought the lie that the freedom that Jesus purchased on the cross was only negative. It was what Dallas Williard calls “Sin Management”. Oh no- your sin has messed you up and doomed you to hell or at least a hellish existence. Want the monkey of your guilt off your back? Jesus died for you. There you are free.
* BUT JESUS SAVES US TO SOMETHING. HE attached to us. To know him. to have a relationship with him. To live the GOOD LIFE.
* The rest of this series is going to teach you to build habits that help you practice attachment and mutual mind with Jesus. That help you live out a positive view of freedom in Christ.
* That you haven’t just been saved from something, but to something beautiful.
* And the practice of the habits of sending down deep roots into Jesus are not cumbersome, anymore than its cumbersome to plan out a date night with my wife- or taking one of my sons out to eat to have a conversation.
* Those things take intentionality. They take practice. They take preparation and calendaring and cutting off other dates and appointments—but they are deeply organic and relational and they build attachment.
* And one more thing. Remember as we go into this- that trees grow slowly.
* The most overlooked and underappreciated growth strategy is patience
* The Marines have a saying. “Slow is Smooth and Smooth is Fast.”
  + I always explain it like a fire drill.
  + Move slow- and everyone actually gets out of the building faster.
  + Try to move fast- AND PEOPLE DIE.
* Moving slow, putting down roots, making commitments…these are not very popular ideas in our culture. You know why? They don’t make good consumers. You can’t move product by telling people real change takes time. Or happiness is grown slowly in a garden and doesn’t come from buying things.
* But, Boy, do those ideas make an incredible garden with the most delicious fruits and vegetables. You want a life that the corporations who are selling you stuff want you to live. Well- just stay constantly distracted in the fast lane.
* You want a life that yields something beautiful. Slow down & Put your roots deeply Jesus.

**HOMEWORK-**

* + **Find a daily 30-minute repeatable space in your life to focus on Attachment with Jesus.**
  + Subscribe to our podcast- we’ll be walking with you
  + Don’t worry yet about what that entails. Just find it.
    - Preferably quiet. Find it.
    - It will mean losing something.
    - You may need help- ask your community group.