



Christ
Offers
Forgiveness
For
Everyone
Everywhere



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Bob's Beliefs

Wilmington Emmaus

Ephesians 5:2 “And walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God.”

Recently we had the opportunity to Puppy Sit for my brother-in-law when he and his family went to Florida for vacation.

The first night was not a really good night since we have two of our own in the house. Duke, being a male dog, and our dog Sam spent a great amount of time trying to find out who the **Top Dog** was going to be. I guess they finally figured it out and the rest of the week went pretty well. All four dogs got along.

Duke was to be picked up on Sunday morning. We told my brother's family to come in and sit down and be really quiet and we would go get Duke out of his crate and surprise him that they were home.

So I went in and got Duke and carried him down the hall. When we got to the living room and he saw his “family,” he went crazy. I almost dropped him he was so excited to see them. In a matter of seconds, he forgot us and was totally devoted and happy with his family. The love in his eyes was priceless.

Watching Duke with his family made me do some thinking. Duke was giving such unconditional love, he missed them and wanted nothing but his family.

Christ knew us before we were conceived and wants us to be a child of his, a part of His family. He is waiting with open arms and will accept us if we ask. If we stray or walk away from Him, he will be so excited when we finally come back to Him.

This bring me to this point. God knows what kind of day we are going to have and will help us through if we ask. Just because He loves us.

DAVE'S DISPENSES

Fencing in our Freedoms

I'm privileged to be an American. Our nation offers individual liberties unlike anything seen before. The Constitution is truly a grace covenant where every person is valued and each is provided the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." To think that we've been granted the freedom to pursue our individual definition of contentment is nearly unfathomable, but it's true and I'm grateful.

I'm writing this on July 5th (yes, the newsletter delay is my fault!) and yesterday the nation celebrated Independence Day. It commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence, when our forefathers declared our liberation from England's rule over the Colonies. Robyn and I did some of the customary festivities like eating brats and watching fireworks, but we also broke from tradition by not doing much else. On the 4th we stayed home and decided just to chill (chill, not grill) out. I guess we're showing our age when a great day of celebration means not doing much.

Having this "free" time gave me the opportunity to reflect on our liberty, and how our freedom in Jesus differs from our freedom in America. In America, you see, freedoms have been extended to pursue one's individual interests regardless of the effect on others. To use a contemporary phrase, U.S. citizens have rights without "moral boundaries"; freedoms without consideration of the implication to others. And as some of these freedoms are exercised, I find my life negatively impacted as the social norms spiral down. That's not so with our freedom in Christ.

Jesus said "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). Jesus set us free from the need to abide by secular social trends and, instead, to adhere to the precepts of love and grace He established with His death, burial and

resurrection. Jesus's "freedom" isn't for personal glorification, but to enable a journey to "deny themselves, take up the cross, and follow" (Matthew 16:24). We've been set free to follow the path of our Lord, and empowered to lay down our freedoms in pursuit of it when necessary. Ephesians 5:13 makes this very clear: "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."



What does this have to do with the Emmaus Walk? Everything. The Emmaus Community endeavors to minister love and grace within a freedom that has a scriptural border. Our pursuit of individual freedoms is fenced in to enable cohesion in the Community. There are "red flag" issues that we don't discuss, because they are a matter for the church and Emmaus isn't a church. We accept all comers, trusting God to filter through the baggage some people carry, either by the work of the Holy Spirit at a Walk or by their church when the pilgrim returns home. Emmaus simply comes alongside the church to share the love of Christ. We are blessed to have the freedom in America to worship God, and the freedom in God to follow Jesus. And following Jesus is what Emmaus is all about. Paul wrote: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Gal 5:1). Amen to that!

WOMAN'S WALK # 96

WELCOME to EMMAUS, LADIES

Hannah	Bowles	Goshen	OH	45122
Katrina	Dean	Wilmington	OH	45177
Kaleigh	Earley	Wilmington	OH	45177
Tarrah	Hicks	Wilmington	OH	45177
Candy	Horton	Greenfield	OH	45123
Sue	Lewis	Greenfield	OH	45123
Cheryl	Livingston	Wilmington	OH	45177
Melinda	Martin	Leesburg	OH	45135
Tonya	Martin	Wilmington	OH	45177
Jaime	McAllister	Wilmington	OH	45177
Kim	Newberry	Wilmington	OH	43177
Joyce	Perez	Blanchester	OH	45107
Sue	Priest	Hillsboro	OH	45133
Deb	Quallen	Loveland	OH	45140
Ke'arra	Redmon	Wilmington	OH	45177
Ashley	Rhoads	Wilmington	OH	45177
Patricia	Ross	Wilmington	OH	45177
Amy	Sexton	Clarksville	OH	45113
Kathy	Sharp	Waynesville	OH	45068
Mary Ann	Shreve	Sardinia	OH	45171
Rhonda	Simpson	Greenfield	OH	45123
Melanie	Stacy	Port Orange	FL	32128
Kim	Swearingen	Port William	OH	45164
Tammy	Van Dyke	Greenfield	OH	45123
Constance	Walker	Russellville	OH	45168
Bev	Wells	Maineville	OH	45039
Karen	Werner	Batavia	OH	45103

Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus

Wilmington United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 191

Wilmington, OH 45177

We're on the web:

www.wilmingtonemmaus.org

TRUST

T – Take one day at a time

R – Remember all things work together for the good of those who love God

U – Under no circumstances should you worry

S – Start the day with prayer and thanksgiving

T – The Lord will never forsake you

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Tony Williams

Bob and Dorothy Hodson

Donna Farquhar

David Waits

Robby Nonnery

Rainee Angles

Dustin Tracy

friends with dilemmas

Emmaus September Walk

relationships with God and family

Lynnette Shanton

David Stanforth

Kathy Snowball

Jill Nonnery

Our military