

Sermon Outline “When Freedom is Dangerous”

8.3.25

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

I. Introduction

- What makes Methodism unique? **Praxis** — faith in action.
- Wesleyan theology moves from **head → heart → hands and feet**.

II. My Journey into Methodism

- Came to VA Conference in 2019.
- Took courses on Methodist theology and history.
- Dr. Brian Germano: Wesleyan theology is **grounded in Scripture, born from ministry, and meant for real life**.

III. John Wesley: A Life of Praxis

- Reached coal miners and poor—took the Gospel to the fields.
- “The world is my parish.”
- Lived simply to give generously.
 - Earned 30 pounds → lived on 28 → gave 2
 - Later earned 120 → still lived on 28 → gave 92
- Wesley overcame failure in Georgia.
 - Found new light in darkness: “Everything appeared in a new view.”

IV. Paul’s Teaching: 1 Corinthians 8

- Issue: Eating meat sacrificed to idols.
- Two groups:
 1. **The Weak** – troubled, still growing in faith
 2. **The Strong** – had knowledge, exercised freedom
- Paul: “Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.”

V. Love Over Knowledge

- Parents sacrifice rights for children—**love > freedom**.
- Paul could eat idol meat, but he chose not to.
- Real freedom = serving others in love.

VI. Living It Today

- **John Wesley**: used freedom and resources for God.
- **Modern example**: Professor rediscovered joy through serving children.
- **VBS**: Volunteers gave up time, found joy through service.

VII. Conclusion: Praxis in Action

- Love is not just felt—it’s lived.
- Wesley lived it. Paul preached it. Jesus embodied it.
- **So must we.**
- **Faith = Giving up for the good of others.**

“We’re not called to live for ourselves, but to give ourselves—for the good of others.”