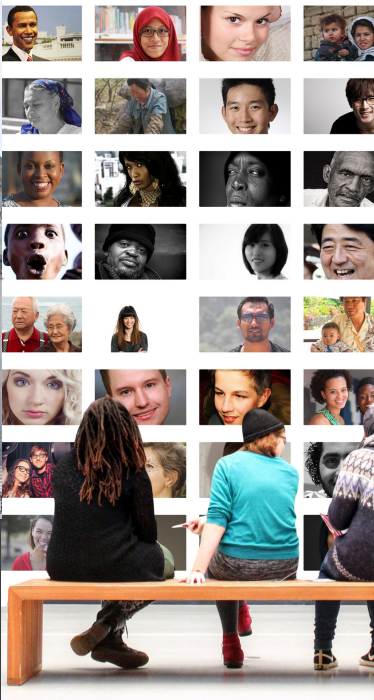
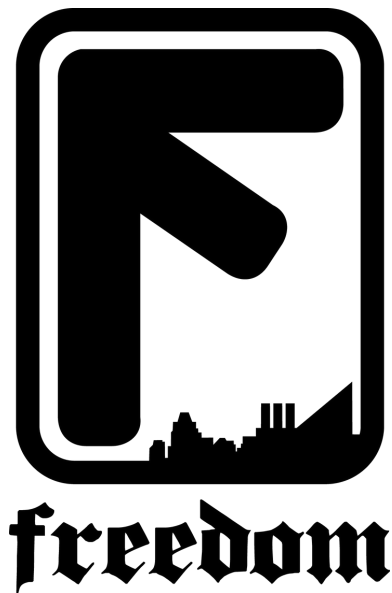


A CURRICULUM ON



# NAVIGATE

NAVIGATING COMPLEX  
SUBJECTS AS A CHRISTIAN



Welcome to our D-Group Curriculum: *Navigate!* This curriculum was designed to help Christians navigate various controversial subjects in our society. Our mission statement at Freedom Church Baltimore is *Draw to Christ, Develop in Community, and Deploy to Culture*. We hope this curriculum will not only help you better understand these subjects, but also help you navigate through them as you encounter them from the culture.

For the next six weeks, we will be looking at some common subjects that many Christians struggle with. In each of the six weeks, we will follow the same format. First, we will have you consider a few questions regarding the subject. Then we will take a deeper look at guiding principles that will help you navigate through each subject. Each principle will incorporate some form of Biblical response and application.

As we begin to address these subjects, we recognize that some of them may require more than one D-Group meeting to be understood. So we would like to encourage you to have conversations with one another and with your pastors outside of D-Group if necessary.

# WEEK #1

## How do I navigate Social Media as a Christian?

Before we get into the guiding principles for social media, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- If someone were to come up to you and ask you what social media is, how would you define it?
- When you think of social media, what is your primary emotion associated with it?
- If you can change one thing about social media, what would it be?
- What is the most encouraging thing you have seen on social media?

Below are some guiding principles on how you can navigate social media as a Christian:

### 1 Recognize that social media is a Christian liberty.

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:23
- How would you define Christian liberty? **DON'T CHEAT!**
- To help you gain a better understanding of Christian Liberty, consider the **1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith CHAPTER 21, paragraph 2 and 3:**

“God alone is Lord of the conscience(12) and he has left it free from human doctrines and commandments that are in any way contrary to his word or not contained in it(13) So, believing such doctrines, or obeying such commands out of conscience, is a betrayal of true liberty of conscience(14). Requiring implicit faith or absolute and blind obedience destroys liberty of conscience and reason as well(15).

Those who use Christian liberty as an excuse to practice any sin or nurture any sinful desire pervert the main objective of the grace of the gospel to their own destruction,(16) and they completely destroy the purpose of Christian liberty. This purpose is that we, having been delivered from the hands of all our enemies, may serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our lives(17).”

**12** James 4:12; Romans 14:4. **13** Acts 4:19, 29; 1 Corinthians 7:23; Matthew 15:9. **14** Colossians 2:20, 22, 23. **15** 1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 1:24. **16** Romans 6:1, 2. **17** Galatians 5:13; 2 Peter 2:18, 21.

### 2 Recognize that you have a natural inclination to be influenced by the world.

- Read Deuteronomy 18:9, Romans 12:1-2, and 1 Corinthians 6:12



# 3

**Recognize that social media cannot and does not replace the importance of being physically present as we love God and our neighbors.**

- 2 Corinthians 7:6-7
- 2 John 1:12
- Revelation 21:3
- Can you think of any texts that would support this idea?



# 4

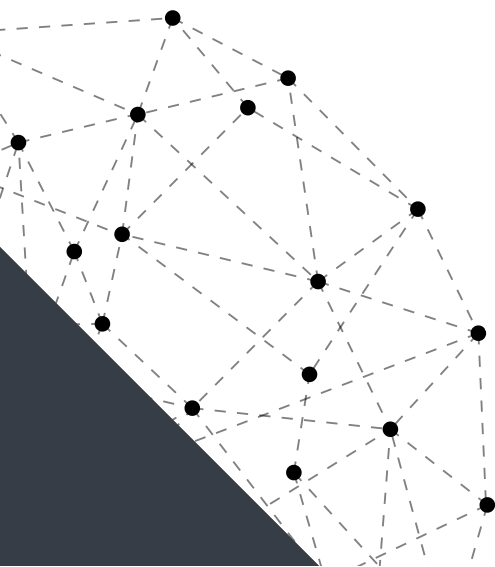
**Recognize that certain commandments cannot be obeyed using social media.**

- Can you think of any texts that would support this idea?
- For example, baptism. You can watch it online, but you cannot baptize someone unless you are physically present with them.

# 5

**Recognize that social media posts are not the best vehicle to obey some commandments.**

- For example, Matthew 18:15.
- Can you think of any other commandments that would support this idea?



# WEEK #2

## How do I navigate Artificial Intelligence as a Christian?

Before we get into the guiding principles for Artificial Intelligence (AI), we would like you to answer the following questions:

- What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?
- What thoughts and emotions come to your mind when AI comes up?
- Did you ever imagine you would live to see the day when AI was a reality?

Below are some guiding principles on how you can navigate AI as a Christian:

### 1 AI was created by man.

- Read Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 4:21-22.
- What do these verses say about man?

### 2 AI is here to stay and we need to adapt.

- Where do you see this idea in Jeremiah 29:1-14?

### 3 AI's existence should move us to embody and practice Ephesians 5:15-17.

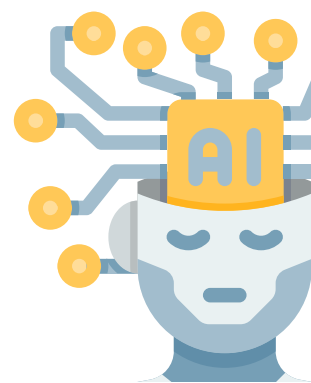
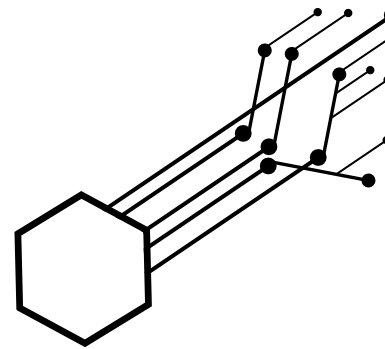
- What is one way you can apply this verse in your life?

### 4 AI cannot and will not separate us from God's love.

- Where do you see this idea in Romans 8:31-39?

### 5 AI's presence will not cancel out God's promises.

- Read the following promises and discuss how they should encourage us in light of God's promises:
  - Matthew 28:18-20
  - John 16:33
  - Philippians 4:6-7
  - Hebrews 13:5-7



# WEEK #3

## How do I navigate Politics as a Christian?

Before we get into the guiding principles for politics, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- On a scale of 1-10, how important is politics to you?
- On a scale of 1-10, how important is politics to people in the church and in America?
- How would you define politics?
- What stirs up in you when you hear the word 'politics'?
- How would you describe Jesus' relationship to politics?

Below are some guiding principles on how you can navigate politics as a Christian:

# 1

**Politics is an area of Christian liberty for Christians.**

- Do you remember what Christian liberty is?
- How do you feel about this?

# 2

**Christians need to be differentiated, seeing the truth in the midst of exaggerations and diminishments when it comes to politics.**

- Read Matthew 22:15-22 and 1 John 4:1.
- Can you think of any examples of this in our world today?

# 3

**A Christian's political views and actions should be in complete agreement with the word of God.**

- Read Mark 6:14-20 and John 18:36.
- Can you think of any examples that violate this idea?

# 4

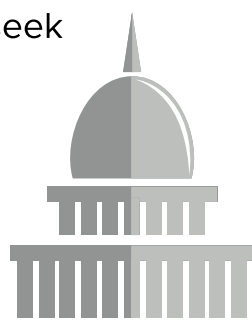
**Our Christian unity, which is based on what the Bible teaches and commands us to do, is more important than our political disagreements.**

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:31-33.
- Have you ever experienced the opposite of this idea?

# 5

**When Christians disagree over political issues, they should do so embodying the spirit and practice of 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 and Romans 14:17.**

- What are some of the challenges we are going to have as we seek to obey these scriptures?



# WEEK #4

## How do I navigate LGBTQIA+ as a Christian?

Before we get into the guiding principles for LGBTQIA+, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- Do you know what LGBTQIA+ stands for?
- In your opinion, how important is LGBTQIA+ to the church?
- What concerns do you have about the LGBTQIA+ movement?
- What is the biggest challenge for you regarding this issue?

Below are some guiding principles on how you can navigate LGBTQIA+ as a Christian:

### 1 Embrace, believe, and practice the Bible's blueprint for gender and sexuality.

- Read Genesis 1:26-28.
- How do you feel about this?

### 2 Accept the fact that sin has distorted but not destroyed the Bible's blueprint for gender and sexuality.

- Read Matthew 19:4-6.
- How would you describe the difference between sin distorting but not destroying the Bible's blueprint for gender and sexuality?

### 3 Recognize the differences between the LGBTQIA+ narrative and the Bible's on gender and sexuality and affirm the scripture's narrative.

- Read Genesis 9:13-16 and Romans 1:21-32.
- Consider this statement: A narrative is a spoken or written account of connected events; a story.
- What is the LGBTQIA+ narrative on gender and sexuality?
- How does it differ from Genesis 9:13-16 and Romans 1:21-32?

### 4 We need to continue to believe, practice and proclaim what scripture teaches on gender and sexuality.

- Read 2 Timothy 3.
- What are some challenges we are going to have with this idea?

### 5 We need to imitate Jesus in our relationships with people who believe and subscribe to the practices of LGBTQIA+.

- Read Luke 5:31-32, Luke 15:1-2, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Titus 3:1-8
- Why don't we see more of this happening in the lives of Christians?

# WEEK #5

## How do I navigate Culture as a Christian?

Before we get into the guiding principles for culture, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- What are your thoughts on this definition of culture?
  - A culture is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.
- When you hear the word culture, do you have positive or negative thoughts?
- What concerns you the most about American culture?
- What concerns you the most about church culture?

Below are some guiding principles on how you can navigate culture as a Christian:

**1 Understand Christianity is essentially a culture that transforms the lives of people.**

- Read Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 4:13, Ephesians 4:17-24, and 1 Peter 2:9-11.
- How do these texts support this idea?

**2 Understand that multiple cultures can and do exist at the same time.**

- Read Mark 7:1-13 and see if you can identify multiple cultures.
- Can you think of any other illustrations where we can see multiple cultures at work in the Bible and in the world?

**3 Understand that culture is the most powerful influence in a person's life.**

- Read John 4:7-9, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 15:33, and Colossians 2:8.
- How do these texts support this idea?

**4 It is our responsibility to discern whether or not a culture is Biblical or not.**

- Read Acts 17:10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, and Galatians 1:6-9.
- How can we encourage one another to do this?
- What are some of the challenges we will face as individuals trying to discern whether or not a culture is Biblical or not?

**5 Cultivating your own self-awareness is the most effective way for you to navigate through culture.**

- Read Exodus 34:29-34, Psalm 139:23-24, and 1 Corinthians 4:1-4.
- What can you learn from these texts?
- Where do you see God in culture?
- What do you see God doing in culture?



# WEEK #6

## How do I navigate Ethnic/Cultural Diversity as a Christian?

Before we get into the guiding principles for Ethnic/Cultural Diversity, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- How would you define ethnicity?
- Could you give us an example of what cultural diversity looks like?
- What challenges are Ethnic/Cultural Diversity presenting to America?
- What challenges are Ethnic/Cultural Diversity presenting to the church?

Below are some guiding principles on how you can navigate Ethnic/Cultural Diversity as a Christian:



### 1 The building block for all Ethnic/Cultural Diversity comes from the doctrine of creation of man.

- Read Genesis 1:26-27 and Acts 17:26.
- How do these texts support this idea?
- If Christianity's building block for Ethnic/Cultural Diversity starts with creation, what is the world's building block for Ethnic/Cultural Diversity?

### 2 Ethnic/Cultural Diversity was designed by God, glorifies God, and it is good.

- Read Genesis 9:7, Genesis 10:32, Genesis 11:1-9, and Revelation 7:9-10.
- How do these texts support this idea?

### 3 God's will is that we would experience Ethnic/Cultural Diversity and unity at the same time.

- Read Galatians 3:28-29, Ephesians 2:11-22.
- Do you see ethnic/cultural diversity unity in these texts?
- Can you think of any other texts in the Bible that support this idea?

### 4 Most of the relational and social challenges we face concerning Ethnic/Cultural Diversity are a result of exaggerating and diminishing either our Ethnic/Cultural Diversity or the fact that we are made in God's image.

- Read Acts 10:24-29, 34-35, 45-47, Acts 11:1-3, 17-18.
- What stands out to you about these texts?
- Can you think of any illustrations in the Bible or in the world that support this idea?

### 5 Christianity encourages and requires us to lovingly sacrifice for one another when it comes to issues of Ethnic/Cultural Diversity.

- Read Acts 16:1-3, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, and Galatians 5:14.
- How do these texts support this idea?
- What makes this so challenging?