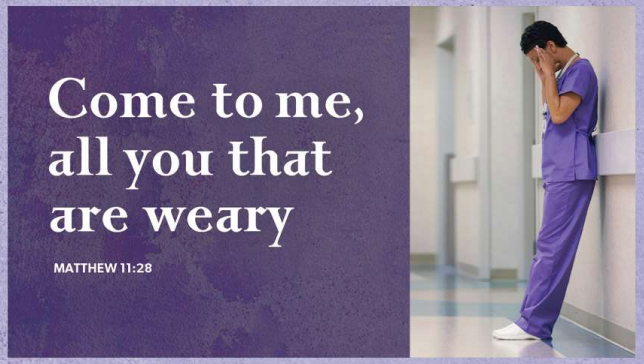
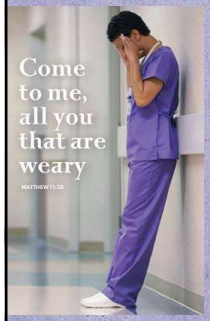


LCR Worship – July 9, 2023

1

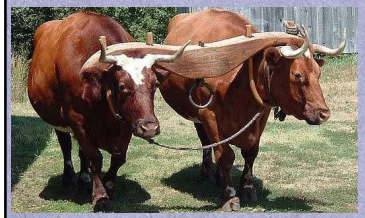
What Is Freedom?



- Bachelor and Bachelorette Parties are famous for:
  - Horror stories of things getting a bit wild
  - A toast celebrating the groom's or bride's "last night of freedom"
- Does yoking our life to another's in marriage lead to more or less freedom? How does our answer to this question reveal our understanding of *freedom*?
- In Ephesians 5:21, Paul says, "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ" – and then launches into advice to husbands and wives
- Does our reaction to language of 'being subject' to one another reveal our understanding of *freedom*?

2

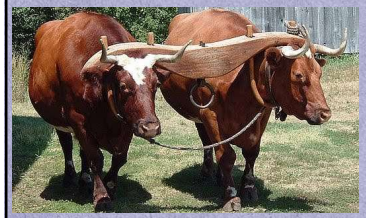
The Yoke of Freedom Is Learning to Lovingly Serve



- One of Luther's better essays was "On Christian Liberty," in which he posed Christian freedom paradoxically:
  - A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.
  - A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all.
- The Bible teaches us right from the beginning that God created us knowing that it's not good for to be alone (Gen 2:18)
- We are created to be in covenant community with each other — created to be yoked to one another.

3

The Yoke of Freedom Is Learning to Lovingly Serve



- The Judeo-Christian view of being human teaches that for human beings to think we can be unyoked from all Others is an illusion – it leads to false ideas of freedom
- The mirror neurons in our brains unconsciously yoke us to the desires of others
- When mimetic desire causes us to fall into rivalistic desiring, we increasingly feel trapped in our relationships to Others, and we thus perceive freedom as being unyoked
- True freedom lies in acceptance of being yoked to the Other and so grounding all our relationships in being yoked to God in Christ

4