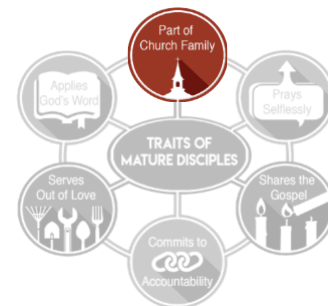


LIFE GROUP SESSION: FAMILY TREE (part two)



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Romans 12:3-21

Context of Romans (see Romans 1:7, 15:15-16; 16:17-18) - living in the heart of the Empire, they were called to be holy, different, set apart. Paul writes extensively to address the divide between Jews & Gentiles, as well as the address the objections and theological attack.

Structure of Romans – large unpacking of key theological themes in first 11 chapters (sin, grace, redemption, election, salvation, Holy Spirit, etc.). Then in chapter 12, it all changes, becomes much more practical advice.

Romans 12:1-2 – “In view of God’s mercy...” (spent 11 chapters unpacking this), “offer your bodies as living sacrifice... this is your spiritual act of worship.” Need to keep this front and centre – our living for God is a respond to God; living as a healthy church family must always be a response what God has done; it is worship.

Romans 12:3-21 --- we worked through all of these practical instructions, looking at what they looked like and a few questions asking how we are going with it.

Overall, we are called to a unique way of love and conduct. Remember the context of Romans; they were called to a unique way of love in an empire of dominion and power, they were called to a unique way of peace and harmony as they suffered persecution and injustice.

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: What is unique or different about your family / our church family?

READ: Romans 12:3-21

Humility (*verse 3; see also Philippians 2:5-8*)

- **How do you define humility? How can we grow in humility?**

Gifts (*verses 4-8*)

- **What gifts do you see in the person next to you?**

Genuine Love (*verses 9-16; see also John 13:34-35*)

- **How do we grow to love more? (*not fake it til we make it, seek above until we love – our love is a reflection of God’s love – this is all a response!*)**
- **Go through verses 10-16 and focus on the instructions to do with love. Which of these can you improve in this week and what does it look like?**

Good Over Evil (*verses 14-21, see also 2 Corinthians 10:3-4*)

- **We are called to abhor, or hate, what is evil. What does this look like? (*especially in light of the verses here*). How do we ‘fight’ with God’s weapons? (*2 Corinthians 10:3-4*)**
- **How do we cling to what is good in a world that does the opposite?**

READ: 1 Peter 2:9-10. *May this be what defines us. Once we were not a people, but through Christ we now are – we are His family. A chosen people, a royal priesthood with gifts, roles and functions, we are a holy nation, set apart from the world around us, God’s special possession, loved and adored, so that we may declare His praise, live a life of worship, in response to His mercy and love, which bought us out of darkness, into His marvellous light.*

PRAY: Pray that we will continue to live holy lives, be faithful to God in this fallen land. Pray that our love may be genuine and unique. Pray that we may resist evil and cling to what is good. Pray that our lives would be a response to God’s mercy, a spiritual act of worship.