

Home Group Questions

the week of 3/11/2018

Romans 15:1-7 & Various Scriptures

LOOKING OUT FOR OTHERS!

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel taught on the importance of looking out for the needs of others in the church and outside the church. We need to reflect the life of Jesus Christ who gave himself on the cross for a lost world.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Romans 15:1-7. Discuss this passage and the importance of Christians and the church “looking out for one another”. If we are to effectively look out for the needs of one another what are some attitudes and truths that we need to adopt in order to effectively do that in our lives? What are attitudes that would keep us from being effective in looking out for the needs of others?

- This passage tells us that our example is Christ. How can we effectively be like Christ but not burn out? What are some things about Christ’s life that would help us to be effective in serving others? (i.e., having times away in prayer, resting, reliance on God)

The sermon shared that effectively looking out for others emanates out of two important truths:

1) It comes from living a “crucified” life.

Pastor Mel related the word “bear” in verse 1 to the word that was used in John of “bearing” your cross. Jesus our example took on our burden and penalty by “bearing” the cross for us. Read Galatians 2:20 and discuss what it means to live “crucified” for Christ.

2) It comes from living a “constructive” life. The importance of building up others cannot be overstated. Read Ephesians 4:11-12 and discuss ways in which we can build

each other up in the body of Christ. When Scripture conveys that we are “not to please ourselves”...what does that mean to you? Can a believer never do anything that pleases him/herself? What does this passage mean when it comes to helping someone in their “failings”.

2. Romans 15:3-4 talk about the concepts of “endurance” and “encouragement”. Discuss with your home group the importance of these two concepts...the endurance of the believer and the encouragement of God’s Word. What is their relationship to one another in the Christian life?

3. Romans 15:5-7 talks about the outcome of a community that looks out for one another. What are those outcomes as described in these verses (check sermon notes). What kind of community is created, not only for the regulars who attend but also for those who come to our community as new attenders? When you are disappointed by other Christians, what are some biblical truths you remind yourself of that encourage you to make your connections even stronger with the church and with the Lord Himself?

4. Read Colossians 3:12-17. This passage is a powerful passage that relates to the community of believers. What would you say are the essential qualities that Paul is highlighting in this passage when it comes to community. The concept of “forgiveness” is key in this passage. This relates back to bearing with the failings of the weak in Romans 15:1-7. How do you think believers can move past hurts and failing that may affect their relationship with one another and experience true healing and restoration? What are the strategies that you would recommend for two people to get over hurts that they have experienced in the past? Does verse 16 give us an idea of how we can stay unified as a church and move beyond the failings of one another?

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that you will be a person who does not seek to please him/herself but looks out for the needs of others to build them up!