

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 5/7/23

Sermon: Stand Firm

Text: Romans 12:1-2

Speaker: Will Massaro

Questions: Hunter Harwell

Sermon Notes

This week, Will preached from Romans 12:1-2, diving into what it means for us to saturate our community with the gospel. Before getting into these, verses, however, he started with an overview of what the Bible says about saturation, starting in Genesis with God's command to Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28) and ending with the promise in the book of Revelation that God would saturate the New Creation with his glory.

I won't try to put all of Will's overview here (for if all of Will's introduction had been written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written), but the climax of the theme of saturation in the Bible is in God's promise in Isaiah 11:9 and Habakkuk 2:14 that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." The fulfillment of this promise then begins when Jesus came and began the ministry of bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth and it is this ministry that we continue today as members of his Church.

Will's first point from Romans 12:1 was that orthodoxy leads to orthopraxy, or that right doctrine, an understanding of what God has told us in his Word leads to right living. In other words, we need to study and meditate on the Bible in order to live lives that please God and to fulfill our mission to saturate our communities with the gospel (Psalm 1). We need to know the gospel before we can live it out.

The next idea we see in Rom. 12:1-2 is that saturation is sacrifice. We are commanded in these verses to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice," which Paul calls our spiritual worship. The Christian life is one that is meant to be given entirely over to God so that every part of us, everything we are, or do, or say, or think, glorifies God and serves his mission.

Lastly, these verses tell us that sacrifice stems from transformation, meaning that we can only “present our bodies as a living sacrifice” if we have been transformed by the Holy Spirit. This means both that we need to be saved and transformed from dead in sin to alive in Christ (Titus 3:3-8) and that we need the constant transformation and renewal that comes from spiritual disciplines (prayer, reading the Bible, worship, etc.).

Community Group Questions

- 1) How can we, as a church, make sure that our mission to saturate our community with the gospel is fueled by a deep understanding and love of God’s Word? How can your community group, specifically, better work to teach and disciple one another, fulfilling Colossians 3:16?
- 2) Knowing that we are commanded to make our bodies a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1) and, as Will stated, saturation is sacrifice, discuss what parts of your lives you struggle to fully surrender to God. (Try not to generalize. It’s really easy to say, “Christians usually struggle with this,” but another thing entirely to share and pray over the individual struggles that face your church family.)
- 3) Romans 12:2 commands us not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds. How does this transformation play into our mission to saturate our community? Specifically, what role should personal spiritual disciplines (praying, reading the Bible, etc.) have as we gather, grow, and go together, and more convictingly, what role do those spiritual disciplines currently play?
- 4) This sermon series is largely about our mission as a church family to saturate our community with the gospel. Take a minute to think. Are we doing this? And even if we are, how can we better saturate our community. Remember that this isn’t Ted’s mission, or Will’s mission, or the mission of the Southern Baptist Convention, this is what we have come together as a church family and committed to do. This is your mission.