

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 06/14/26
Text: Romans 12:1-8

Sermon: Ted Rastatter/I will build my church
Questions: Jerry Shiver

This week Pastor Ted started a short series on the church. What it is, our role in it and relation to it, Christ's ownership and his vision for it. This week Ted's focus is on verses 1 and 2 of Romans 12 which gives us a view into how Christ builds his church.

Main Point: The New Testament vision for a Christian is an individual who freely sacrifices their individual identity to be identified as a member of the larger body of Christ, where they exercise their spiritual gifts, in order that the church images Jesus to the world.

Outline for Rom 12:1-2 - how Christ builds his church.

- Sacrifice
- Nonconformity
- Transformation

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss how does today's western culture of "me over we" compare to the New Testament eastern culture of "we over me". Which mindset (individual or cooperate) does the majority of New Testament applications and exhortations appear to best apply when practiced? Read Jesus prayer in Matt 6:5-15 and note his use of plural pronouns. Check out how many of the 27 New Testament books are addressed to assembly's verses individuals.
2. Read Matt 16:18. What does this say regarding the ownership of the church? Thinking back to question 1, how might our culture hinder our complying with Christ's vision for his church? Read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's quote below.
3. Read and discuss verse 1. Who is Paul urgently addressing? What is his plea based on? What is he asking for? How would this be viewed by God? Why should they/we desire to do it?
4. Read and discuss verse 2 along with 1 Jn 2:15-17, Eph 4:23, 2 Cor 4:16. What two things does Paul call out to help become a "living sacrifice?" Again, why should they/we desire to do it?
5. In Ted's message he stated "The mission is the church. The greatest strategy for reaching unbelievers is that the church go on mission together." He also quoted D. A. Carson "The church itself is not made up of natural friends. It is made up of natural enemies." Yet Jesus says in John 13:15 "They will know you are Christians if you love one another." Discuss how Paul's instructions in verses 1 and 2 support Christ's vision for his church.

"Every human wish-dream that is injected into the Christian community is a hindrance to genuine community and must be banished if genuine community is to survive. He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial. God hates visionary dreaming; it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious. The man who fashions a visionary ideal of community demands that it be realized by God, by others and by himself. He enters the community of Christians with his demands, sets up his own law, and judges the brethren and God himself accordingly."
Deitrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together.