

onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion



It's difficult to solve a problem when you don't understand what's wrong to begin with. We all have vices—things we know we shouldn't do, that we tell ourselves not to do, and that we then do anyway. And most of us have been trying to fix those issues for years. We've doubled down on will power. We've sought counseling. We've recruited an accountability partner. And yet, we keep doing what we know we shouldn't do.

Many of us have been trying to solve the problem of “us” for a long time. Some of you have lost friends, family, or jobs because you couldn't solve you. Some of you have paid someone good money to solve you. But what if the real problem is that you don't know what the problem is?

BIG IDEA: One unrighteous act of one man ensured you were born a slave to sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever tried to break a bad habit? What did you do? Were you successful?
2. When you have a problem to solve—large or small—do you tend to go it alone or look to others for help? Why is that?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 7:15.* How have you experienced this disconnect between the way you behave and the way you *want* to behave? What have you done to try to address the disconnect?
4. Is it difficult for you to believe that sin “dwells in you”? Does the idea that you're “ungodly” bother you? Why or why not?
5. What will you do this week to think through what Chris had to say about sin—pray, read the Bible, have some conversations with others? What can the members of this group do to support you?

GOING DEEPER

1. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 1.* What are some of the things Paul writes to show his urgency about his message to the church of Rome (verses 1:9-11, 15-16)? What are some of the behaviors in your life that show you are urgent about the message of Jesus Christ?

Romans 1:18-23—just six short verses—has the potential to make us very uncomfortable

2. Paul clearly taught that God reveals Himself through the things He has made. How have you seen and experienced the glory of God through His creation?
3. How is this kind of revelation universal and available to all people? Why does this fact remove everyone's excuse about the knowledge of God?
4. What is the crime or sin that people commit against God that leads to their condemnation? (1:21-23)

5. What are examples today of how people do *one* of the following:
- a. Fail to give God glory
 - b. Refuse to give thanks to God
 - c. Grow futile in their thinking
 - d. Claim to be wise when they are fools
 - e. Worship idols and images rather than God
6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 3:9-20.* In your own words, how would you define sin?
7. Paul quotes numerous Old Testament passages which teach about the human condition without God (Romans 3:10-18). What would Paul say to a person who might make *one* of the following statements:
- 8.
- a. I've been a pretty good person. I am sure God is happy with my life.
 - b. Well, I know I've done a few wrong things, but I'm a lot better person than most of my friends and people I know.
 - c. I am certain God is pleased with me. I attend church weekly, put a little money in the offering plate, and have remained faithful to my spouse. What else could God expect of me?
9. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Romans 3:19-20.* What can the law accomplish? What is the law not able to accomplish? What is the function of the law?
10. Does making more laws fix the real problem?

MOVING FORWARD

If the single action of a single man could create the generational chaos of sin, think of what the single action of Jesus could do. If Adam could mess it up, imagine how Jesus could fix it up. Imagine how he could fix you up.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:6

