

The Hands of Membership

Romans 12:1-8 | November 1, 2020

Introduction

- Series / Last week...

- I'm going to press

- Not shaming - COVID

varied conscience, ability, etc.

- Memb. w/o. not void - marriage

- ALL MEMBERS

- ALL FORWARDED FOR ALL OF US

- WHY ARE YOU HERE?

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

- TRAGEDY OF HUMANS: WE LIVE FAR FROM IDEALS

Deep Down, we want to receive from + contribute to

a genuine community of Christ-followers
growing

- ROMANS 12 - Marks of Genuine Community

In light of last week, what does comm. look like?



Genuine Lives

Romans 12:1

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

EXPLAIN

- ① Theology → practicality
- ② Makes appeal by & through God's mercy | AND what he is going to ask us to do is only possible thru God's mercy.
- ③ Body = completely self
- ④ Sacrifice: life well-lived vs. Death (OT) → Holy/PLEASING
- ⑤ Spiritual worship = "rational service" ∴ worship more than sentiment

ILLUSTRATE

Not Paul's idea; getting from God's heart is OT

- ① AMOS 5:21-24 - "despise gatherings", "instead let justice..." } ∴ As believers, b/c Christ's God's promise + condemning anger is great, let...
- ② ISAIAH 58 - "Is this not the fast I choose?"

→ GOD CARES THAT OUR FAITH PLAYS OUT IN LIFE
AND IS ANGRY WHEN IT DOESN'T.

APPLY

Best way to summarize this point?

- Are you grateful for what God has done?
Give yourself fully, your whole life, to the things he cares about.
- Receive mercy/worship thru living
- MATTERS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Genuine Community?
AS HIS PPL, GOD GAVE ALL FOR US, WE GIVE ALL FOR HIM.

How do we do this?
SPECIALS →

Genuine Minds

Romans 12:2

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

EXPLAIN

All of us by default are being conformed (instilled) by world
All of us by necessity need to be transformed by Jesus
→ The will of God is discerned only w/ renewed mind
the will of God can only be lived when discerned

ILLUSTRATIONS

EAGLES / CHICKEN

IDENTITY - your life follows your mind

APPLICATION

Your expectations of others, God, church, your life are either result of conformed or renewed mind

- conformed - self first, avoid will of God to satisfy
- renewed - God + others first, seeks to serve/bless

MATTERS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Genuine Community?

Unless we give ourselves fully + have the mind of Christ, the will of God is impossible to know + live

Genuine Awareness

Romans 12:3

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

EXPLAIN

- Paul asks us, w/ submitted life + renewed mind, to view ourselves rightly, not as more deserving.
- Think clearly + consider oneself in light of faith one has.
 - ① Last week: you matter + have something to offer
 - ② This week: don't think too much of yourself...

ILLUSTRATE

- Kids moving chairs + ^{Pre-Covid} serving other levels

APPLICATION

- Are you expecting more of the church (or others) than you are willing to give yourself?
→ If so, you are considering yourself higher than you ought.

MATTERS FOR MEMBERSHIP: Genuine community

Are you giving as much as you are receiving?

Genuine Service

Romans 12:4-8

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

WITH A SACRIFICED LIFE,
A RENEWED MIND,
AND A HUMBLE HEART,

✓ SERVE THE CHURCH
SERVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY
BE PRESENT

If pushing against...

Our Covenant

- ① WHAT? CONVULSION OR SUBVERSION?
- ② IF NOT SUPPORTED BY TEXT, SHOW US
- ③ IF THE GOAL IS TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS IN GENUINE COMMUNITY, ARE THESE NOT ALL GOOD THINGS?

Obligation of Anthem Church to its members

+ TO GOD

- We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4). *we don't make up qualifications*
- We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5). *not feelings or our whims*
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Eph. 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14). *we desire to see you grow. Pray weekly*
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31). *David just come in & set up teaching shop*
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1). *Patience*
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12). *to better see your pastors moving chairs.*

My obligation to Anthem Church as a member

- I have read and understood the Anthem **doctrinal statement** and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7, 17).
Heaven help us know | Passions, not mind readers | ~~Heaven help~~ a resolution of being - fixed w/conv
- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
God's common grace gives us many tools, more as fearless as Holy Scripture
- I will maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my participation in weekly worship gatherings, communion, Anthem community, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Ps. 105:1-2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3).
For your good | For the good of others
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11). *God's things, not mine*
- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25). *Don't default to letting pastor - you go! The flow is a process.* / *Humility to give & receive as part of body*
- I agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17); I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4); I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (1 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).

The grace of

*We care about these things because we care about you
we all need accountability, and if we all claim Jesus
we all agreed, at least at one point, to follow him in these ways*

The grace of the gospel is the way through

Conclusion

We want to contribute to + receive from community following jess

Jess wants this even more

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

MAKE US ONE