

Sermon Notes
Mar 3/19 – Romans 12:1-16
Irresistible Community 4: Harmonious Love

Summary: It is common for people in groups to develop an insider perspective which becomes a barrier to outsiders who want to join the group. When this happens in churches, insider bias prevents people from receiving the rich, full, abundant life that Jesus wants to give to all people. When we rest in the grace and love that Jesus has for us, he transforms us into new people who naturally draw people to Jesus.

Big Idea: Because Jesus is carrying us, we are free to forget about ourselves and be other-orientated.

Intro: An insider who helped an outsider belong.

A. Insider v. Outsider – Insiders have

1. Knowledge
2. Experience
3. Privilege
4. Position
5. P _____
6. Which they tend to use to Preserve things as they are

B. This insider bias becomes like a _____ that people have to jump over before they can become part of the group

1. Some people make it over the fence
2. Some people don't

I. **Jew v. Gentile** – Romans (background)

A. The Good News about Jesus is for both _____ & Gentiles (Rom. 1:16-17)

B. The Church in Rome consisted of both Jews & _____

1. Jews were cultural outsiders & _____ with God
2. Gentiles were cultural insiders & _____ with God
3. Before God, there is no _____ between Jews (natural-born insiders) and Gentiles (natural-born outsiders) – (Rom. 3:23-24)

C. Grafted in (Rom. 11:17-18)

1. Gentiles (this means us) have been _____ into the family of God through Jesus and his sacrifice

2. Jesus was the ultimate insider with God and yet he became the ultimate _____ to save us & bring us into God's family

3. Insider status doesn't save us.
_____ saves us (Gal. 3:26-28)

II. **Our response to God's mercy** (Romans 12)

A. Being other-focused

1. Give your _____ to God (vv. 1-2)
2. Evaluate your _____ on others (vv. 3-5)
3. Use your gifts to _____ others (vv. 6-8)
4. Genuinely _____ others (vv. 9-10)
5. Live in _____ with others (v. 16)

B. Evaluate: What impact do I have on others within the church?

III. **Rest**

- A. We need to _____ in Jesus' love & let him carry us
- B. Imagine what it would be like if all of us could simply rest in Jesus' love and let him carry us. We would all be _____ to truly help outsiders to experience the transforming love of Jesus & be drawn by him into the rich, full, abundant life that he wants to give to them.

Conclusion:

A. Remember...

1. ...who you were
2. ...who you are
3. ...who you are for
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Others
 - c. Forget about _____. Jesus is carrying you.