



SMALL GROUPS

Life alone isn't living. We SHARE community.

Beautiful Design

Week 5 – Man's Redemption

2/24/19

In our current study, we are walking through God's design for manhood and womanhood. We have acknowledged that God is Creator and thus, the focus. Not us. We've learned that we each have value because we are made in the image of God – Imago Dei. We've also learned that God has given men two tasks – to work and keep the garden – and that we all have our own personal gardens to which this applies. We have explored the difference between headship and leadership. And, lastly, the hurdles men face as they endeavor to live out God's design for them as men (selfish passivity and selfish aggression).

Of all the principles taught so far, which has had the greatest impact on you? How have you leveraged that impact to make a change in your life?

Read the following statement.

"Where men have fallen into the ditch of selfish passivity or selfish aggression, the stench of death lingers. It lingers in our homes, churches, communities, and countries. Where men refuse to grow up, humanity's chances at flourishing are nearly nonexistent."*

What does the author mean by the phrase "stench of death"?

How does falling into either of those ditches pass death on to our families?

If we're honest, sin and selfishness have infected our identities and play out in numerous ways. Instead of turning to Christ, we often attempt to manage sin ourselves.

How have you tried to manage your sin apart from the Lord?*

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14.

Who was it that breathed life into the dry bones?*

How is this similar to the gospel?

The gospel of Jesus is the only answer to redeeming God's beautiful design of manhood.

How is the gospel the answer?

Read Ephesians 2:4-6. We don't fix our own mess to get to God. God meets us in the valley. He brings us out of our mess. Power is with God, not in us. The gospel...

1. Steps into our mess... (Ezekiel was in a valley of destruction)
2. Positions us with perfection... (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:6)
3. Empowers us through the Holy Spirit... (Ezekiel 37:14, Galatians 5:22-23)

Discuss how each of these can play out in your daily life.

The gospel empowers us to fight. Men were not designed for comfort or for the couch. God has called us to lead with love.

What might that look like in your "garden"?

Sadly, we are all going to fail. (See Proverbs 24:16) The good news is that God's Spirit empowers us to rise again, embrace our weakness in exchange for His strength, and fight another day. However, Roger reminded us of the importance of not playing God in each other's lives.

Men – How do you feel when your wife tries to be the Holy Spirit in your life?

Women – Do you ever sense that there is a time to be silent? How do you respond to that spiritual nudge?

In the end, this is all dependent on your relationship with God. Actively seeking a vibrant and deepening relationship with God is the only way to live out God's design for men and women and to fulfill the purposes for which you were created. You were made for more.

*Taken from, "a beautiful design," by Matt Chandler