



Week 6- "In Dependence"

Who we are, how we relate to others, and how we define ourselves impacts everything we do. In this week's message, we look at the reality that there is something in our human nature that pulls us away from the unity that we want in our relationships. We will look at the help Christianity offers that allows us to value others above ourselves.

1. Discuss the reality that my concerns and comfort tend to be more important than the concerns and comfort of others. What has been your experience with this?
2. Where do I lack equal concern for those who are different from me, in my family, community, and country?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-25

3. Just like the body has different parts that work together, you should have equal concern for those around you that are different from you. Why do you think this is so hard to do?
4. Discuss the truth that Christianity teaches that you can't have "equal concern" for others because your broken human nature will always lean toward me, myself, and I.
5. In what ways does this truth free you from the striving to overcome selfishness on your own?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

6. Paul is saying that we can find "equal concern" for others when we admit that we don't have the ability, and that we need the Spirit of Jesus to change our hearts. Is it hard for you to admit that you don't have the ability to fix your selfish tendencies on your own?

7. What do you think it looks like to depend on Jesus' Spirit to help you?

As you go through your week will you ask yourself these questions? *Leaders: the first question was asked at the beginning but there is still value in reflecting on this question beyond this discussion.*

- Where do I lack equal concern for those who are different from me, in my family, community, and country?
- As a Christian, am I more defined by ME or by His Spirit in me? His spirit is a Spirit of honor, humility, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.
- Do I see my humanness and do I live in dependence on Him?

When we can remember that our human nature is more concerned with ME and does not have equal concern for others, and when we can depend on His nature in ME it changes the way we see ourselves and others.