

The Turnaround

A Series on Romans 1-8

Hillside Church of Marin - Small Group Discussion Guide

Part 4: The Struggle is Real, 03/03/24, Romans 7:14-8:2

Main Point: As believers, we have been justified and are being sanctified. We experience this as a battle between two natures - the old self and the new self.

Getting Started

What stood out to you the most from this week's teaching on Romans 7 and the struggle we face?

Discuss the Text - Read Romans 7:14-8:2

Paul loved Jesus and gave his life to build the church. He wanted to do good yet still had moments when he struggled. Can you relate to Paul's plight? Can you share a time in your life when you desperately wanted to act in a manner that you knew was right but you just couldn't seem to act this way?

In this text, Paul talks about the two natures at war within him. Look back at the text. What does he say about his old self? What does he say about his new self?

Now read Ephesians 4:20-24, what does this add to our understanding of these two selves at war?

Today we are talking about the struggle we experience in the process of sanctification. Before we get much further in today's discussion, work as a group to define our two key terms - justification and sanctification. How do these two differ and relate?

In Verses 7:24-8:2 Paul rejoices that Jesus is the solution and the rescuer for us. Why is this the case? What does Jesus do that makes a difference?

What are we told about our identity in the midst of our struggle in Romans 8:1-2?

What is the key truth we see in Romans 8:37 as it related to the war within us? How does this change how we live in the midst of the ongoing battles?

Put It Into Practice.

How would you use this passage to challenge a Christian who is complacent about their sin?

How would you use this passage to encourage a Christian who is burdened by their sin?

After Paul shares his struggle he takes time to praise God. Think about this in your own life. What is the importance of praise in the midst of struggle?

Progressive sanctification is the idea that we are becoming more like Jesus over time as a result of the Spirit's work within us. What is one specific area of struggle in your life where you feel God is at work? Is there a way we as a group can support and encourage you in this process?

Prayer Time:

As you come to the close of this time, Ask members of the group if there is something they will be praying for throughout this week that the group can join them in praying. Pray for these things. Thank Jesus, for all he did to set us free. Praise him for what he continues to do to empower us to live in victory.