



Connect Discussion Guide

05.08.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Romans 5:17

Key Scriptures:

*The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?*

- Jeremiah 17:9

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

- Romans 5:17

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- Romans 6:3-5

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

- Romans 10:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- Ephesians 2:8-10

Message Highlights:

- The hardest person to lead well is yourself.
- One of the best ways to learn and guide ourselves is through questions.
- Every person is a glorious ruin worthy of restoration.
- Where others see junk, God sees treasure.
- Christ begins restoring me the moment I trust him.

Conversation Starter:

Jesus often responded to tough questions by asking a question in return; discuss the wisdom in this approach to important conversations. Have you found yourself either on the giving or receiving end of answering a question with a question? If so, what growth occurred from that situation?

Discuss the Message:

1. How does your leadership of yourself impact your leadership of others?
 - a) What gifts has God given you that is your responsibility to recognize and steward well?
 - b) How do the gifts you have reflect Jesus' love for you?
2. Discuss the implications of God's decision to create humanity in his own image (Genesis 1:27).
 - a) God has declared you and I valuable even in our ruined, sinful state! How does this impact your trust in the Lord? Your admiration of the Lord?
 - b) How would your relationships change if you focused on regularly identifying the treasures in one another in a way that builds each other up spiritually?
 - c) Do you find it easier to build one another up with people who you are closer to (family) or with people where your relationship is more distant?
3. What are we missing when we seek the end result of restoration rather than the one who restores himself?
 - a) Read Romans 6:3-5 again; focusing specifically on the mercy of Christ's desire to be near us, sinfulness and all.
 - b) What specific words or phrases convey Christ's desire for restoration in this passage?
 - c) Have you experienced the freedom of restoration through Christ? If not, what is your next step to take in experiencing new life in Christ?

Pray:

Father God, we are awe-inspired by your desire to be near to us, sinfulness and all. Even in our ruined state, your grace and your love pursue us. To have the opportunity of unification with you in your death and resurrection displays a mercy unlike any other. Thank you for choosing to love us and for inviting us into relationship with you; the process of restoration you invite us into fuels our life and our hope. It's in your son Jesus' name we pray, Amen.