



Connect Discussion Guide

04.03.22 Message | Keith Ehresman | Romans 12:1-8

Key Scriptures:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Romans 12:1-2

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- Romans 15:1-7

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

- 1 Corinthians 9:22

Message Highlights:

- As One Community, we need to live in our convictions, bearing with one another, but not wasting time on the non-essentials.
- Jesus didn't please himself, rather he demonstrated amazing selflessness.
- When we aren't living in unity, God's glory is at stake.
- Our motivations should be the desire for transformation from darkness to light.

Conversation Starter:

Think of the team or group of people in your life with whom you feel most unified with. What steps have you taken to achieve and maintain such unity?

Discuss the Message:

1. One strategy Satan returns to again and again is to create division in the church. Keith encouraged us to prioritize unity within the church body.
 - a) How does Romans 15:1-2 provide encouragement to remain unified within the church?
 - b) How does your personal relationship with Christ fuel you to “bear with the failings of the weak”?
 - c) In what ways does the church suffer if we do not remain unified?
2. Romans 15:3-7 gives us 5 things the church should be known for; what are those 5 things?
 - a) Why do you think Paul highlighted these characteristics in particular?
 - b) What are some “non-essential” characteristics a church might want to be known for? How does focusing on these things hinder a church?
3. Jesus welcomed every one of us, displaying amazing selflessness, as evidenced by 1 Corinthians 9:22.
 - a) Knowing that Christ offers us gifts, through his grace and in abundance, how does that impact your ability to adopt a posture of selflessness as well?
4. Consider C.S. Lewis’ thought on personal sacrifice; “Unless we have a sufficient reason to sacrifice something we love, the cost will always be too great”.
 - a) What do you think C.S. Lewis is trying to communicate here?
 - b) What is a “sufficient reason” to sacrifice something we love?
 - c) How is it possible to hate the sin we have grown to love?

Pray:

Father, we thank you for your constant love and faithfulness through our seasons of strength as well as our seasons of weakness. Forgive us for the times we fail to live in unity, judging and comparing instead of building each other up. When we are strong, help us to lift up those around us who are feeling weak. When we are weak, help us to lean on those who are strong among us. God of endurance and encouragement, grant us to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together we may with one voice glorify you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.