



THE CHURCH OF NO NPCs

ROMANS 12:1-8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS registration is now open! - Sign ups for kids and adult serving opportunities.

Mother's Day @ Mosaic - Get your picture taken and receive a free 8x10!

Block Party - June 7th. One OUTDOOR Service @ 10am with food and fun to follow!

RELATIONAL CONNECT & CHECK-IN

What's something you've been given (gift, skill, opportunity) that you didn't fully appreciate at first,,but later realized how valuable it was?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Matt opened by talking about NPCs: Non-Playable Characters, as background figures with no real purpose. When it comes to church, have you ever felt like an NPC? Or on the flip side, when have you felt most like you were "in the game"?

Read Romans 12:1-8 as a group. Share anything that immediately stands out to you.

2) Paul begins Romans 12 with the word "Therefore." As you think back through the doctrines of chapters 1-11 - holiness, sin, justification, union, sanctification, assurance, adoption, glorification, and sovereignty. Which of those truths about God and the Gospel hit you hardest this week, and why?

3) Paul urges us to offer our bodies as "living sacrifices" (v.1). What does it mean, practically, for a sacrifice to be living? What's the difference between offering God a one-time sacrifice and offering Him a daily one? (Bonus: Read Hebrews 9:26 and Galatians 2:20)

4) Verse 2 tells us not to be conformed to the world but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds. Where do you see the pressure to be "conformed" showing up most in your life right now? What's trying to shape you? (Be specific)

5) In verse 3, Paul warns against thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought. How does pride get in the way of transformation? And how can the opposite (thinking too lowly of yourself) also keep you from serving in the body?

6) Paul's picture of the church is one body with many parts, each indispensable. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-18. Why do you think we so often rank gifts, treating some as "important" and others as "small"? What does God say about that?

7) The sermon made a distinction between "volunteering" and "serving". What's the difference to you? Does the word you use actually change how you show up?

8) "When you have disdain for your gifting and long for different gifts, what's really happening is that you're playing the Sovereign." How have you seen that in your own heart? Have you ever wished God had wired you differently?

9) Matt claimed that joy is often on the other side of using your gift. That you can feel drained logically, but God keeps filling you when you serve in your lane. Have you experienced that? Or are you experiencing the opposite...dryness because a gift is sitting unused?

ACTION STEP

J.S. Bach wrote "Jesus, help" at the top of his compositions and "Glory to God alone" at the bottom. What would it look like for you to bookend your daily work - your job, your parenting, your studies - with that same posture this week? Give it a try and come back next week ready to report if that changed anything in you!

Lastly: How can we pray as a group for you as a group? Be honest...