

The Gospel Story: A Renewed Mind

A Study of Romans

Romans 12:1-8

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Do you think you have a calling by God? If so, what is your calling?
2. Over the years, what have been both your frustrations and your joys related to this idea of a calling?
3. How might you distinguish between what God expects from all believers as a way of life and your specific calling? If all believers only focused on what we might call more of a way of life and ignored their specific calling, what would be the result?

Bible Study

1. Read Romans 12:1-2. What does the “Therefore...by the mercies of God” refer to? What have you learned in chapters 1-11?
2. What does Paul consider a “reasonable” or “logical” response to what we’ve received “in Christ”? Conversely, what would be an unreasonable response to what we’ve received?
3. The word “conformed” means to be squeezed into a mold. What do you think it means to be conformed to this world? Is there really anything new under the sun these days?
4. How are we “transformed?” What do you think this means? Does lasting change come from behavior modification or a change in thinking? Why?
5. Read Romans 12:3-8. What is “renewed thinking” according to 12:3? What would “conforming to this world” mean in light of 12:3? How do you explain an arrogant Christian?

6. The “for just as” beginning 12:4 indicates that getting verse 3 right is the key to getting verse 4 right. In other words, we have to view ourselves correctly (in light of God’s mercies) to view others correctly. In what way does a faulty view of ourselves change how we view others?
7. Discuss the “body” metaphor for the local church. Can any “member” operated detached from the greater body? How is diversity celebrated in the human body? What do we learn from this as it relates to the body of Christ? Clearly there is that calling that applies to every believer as a way of life and then that calling that is uniquely your calling as a member of the body of Christ. Why are both callings essential?
8. How can we, together, address both the need for stability and effective, consistent discipleship with the need to reach out and address various needs that come and go in our culture? Would it make more sense for believers to all work together for the common mission or fragment our efforts and even throw stones at one another?

Application

1. What is the reasonable response to what you’ve learned in Romans 1-11? Have you done this? In what ways are you proving that the will of God is good, acceptable and perfect?
2. What are some practical ways you can make sure you are not conformed to this world but rather are transformed by the renewing of your mind?
3. What is your calling in this season of your life? What are some practical steps you can take if you’re still not sure what your calling is? What do your group members see as something you seem “wired up” to do? What are you good at? What are you passionate about?