



Romans 12:1-21 | Week 14 | 5/4/2014

1. Describe true worship in your own words? (Romans 12:1)
2. Tim Chester in his book "You Can Change" says that most sin occurs in our lives because of some form of unbelief. We tend to not believe that God is great, good, glorious, or gracious. Look below at the idols of control, comfort, approval, and power.
3. Which of the idols do you most identify with and why?
4. How does the truth about God confront the idol(s) in your life?
5. How do people offer up their bodies as "living sacrifices" to their idols through activities, people, or work? Why do people do this?
6. What is different about a transformed mind? (Romans 12:2)
7. How are we supposed to think about ourselves, under grace? (Romans 12:3-5)
8. People with gifts should use their gifts for the benefit of the church community. See the example list of gifts in verses 6-8. What gifts do you have that would serve New City well? (Help each other identify gifts.)
9. In what ways is the church in 12:9-21 countercultural? How is it hard to do? Does anything described here come easy to you?
10. Christians are to live "questionable lives." What questions should be expected if a Christian lived 12:9-21?
11. How does the gospel of grace inform (speak into) the response of grace described in 9, 17, and 21?
12. What are two signs of a life shaped by grace? (Romans 12:13) Which of the two comes more natural to you? Why? (note: hospitality is the love of the stranger)
13. How can you better love the church and love the stranger?
14. Pray.

CONTROL

Desire: Self-discipline, certainty, strict standards

Price we will pay: Overworked, loneliness

Greatest nightmare: Uncertainty

Others often feel: Condemned, pushed

Problem emotion: Worry, fear

Eternal truth: God is great, so I don't have to be in control (of people or situations). Jesus was raised from the dead when it seemed that all was lost.

COMFORT

Desire: Privacy, lack of stress, freedom, easy life

Price we will pay: ineffectiveness, selfishness

Greatest nightmare: Stress, demands, pain or loss

Others often feel: Hurt

Problem emotion: Boredom, discontentment

Eternal truth: God is good, so I don't have to look elsewhere for my satisfaction. Jesus is the Father's greatest gift to us and he is enough.

APPROVAL

Desire: Affirmation, love, relationship

Price we will pay: Inauthenticity, codependency

Greatest nightmare: Rejection

Others often feel: Smothered

Problem emotion: Insecurity

Eternal truth: God is glorious, so I don't have to fear others. Jesus took our rejection and earned us full approval before the Father.

POWER

Desire: Success, influence

Price we will pay: Burdened, responsibility

Greatest nightmare: Humiliation, lack of respect

Others often feel: Used

Problem emotion: Anger

Eternal truth: God is gracious, so I don't have to prove myself (to myself, to others, to God). Jesus gave up his authority and power on the cross to secure our position in the kingdom.