

SERMON: Gospel Centered Church
SERIES: Gospel Centered Community
SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

August 19, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 12:3-16

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. Conceit kills community
- II. The case for small group community
- III. Gospel Centered Community

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Read Romans 12:3 and 16. Paul is describing pride or conceit. What are some of the ways that our pride/conceit can get in the way of healthy community? How does the gospel offer a remedy for this conceit? See also Philippians 2:1-8.
2. Part of conceit is consumerism. Where have you seen consumerism creeping into your own relationships? How is a covenant different from consumerism? How do covenantal relationships reflect the Trinity?
3. Romans 12:4-5 describes mutual ministry (we are members one of another). Read also 1 Corinthians 14:26. Part of mutual ministry is that “each one” brings something to the group from the Spirit. Do you see this happening in your small group? How could you be more open to this?
4. Read Romans 12:1. Paul appeals to the “mercies of God.” In what way does gospel centered community reflect the gospel? How does our union with Christ empower us to do community, that is, to love others and be a living sacrifice for them?
5. Romans 12 gives us 12 characteristics of gospel community or “agape community”
 - a. No hypocrisy
 - b. Discernment
 - c. Deep devotion
 - d. Honor
 - e. Enthusiastic service
 - f. Hope
 - g. Generosity
 - h. Acceptance
 - i. Forgiveness
 - j. Empathy
 - k. Harmony
 - l. Humility

Which of these stands out to you? Why? Which have you received from your small group? Which do you think the group struggles with? What commitments can you make as a group to be an “agape community?”

Pray: Thank God for his love and his communal nature. Confess ways that you have been proud within your community. Ask God to strengthen your agape love for those in your community – be specific.