

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 2, 2013

Passage: Romans 8:5-11

Memory Passage: Review Romans 6:1-23

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Romans 8:5-11.** What kind of connection do you see between v. 5 & v. 4 given the “for” that starts v. 5? Identify every command you find in 8:5-11 and write them down. What do you learn about Paul’s teaching from this simple exercise?

(b) The word translated “live” (ESV, NIV) is actually “are” in the Greek text (cf. NASB), so the phrase literally reads, “For those who are according to the flesh” and “those who are according to the Spirit.” Given this fact, is Paul saying that the way we live determines who we are, or who we are determines how we live? Explain the difference between these two ideas?

(c) The word translated “mind set” refers to the entire direction of one’s will. Doug Moo says it “is the fundamental orientation, the convictions and heart attitude that steers the course of our life” (*NIV Application Commentary*, p. 257). Describe the characteristics of this fictitious group of people: “That group sure has set their minds on chocolate!”

(d) Consider this scenario: A friend from your past, someone you have not seen for many years, visits Cabot and wants to come and stay with you for a week while they attend a conference in Little Rock. You agree and look forward to the time you will get to spend with them. On the last day of their visit, you talk about the changes you have seen in each other’s lives since you last spent time together, and your friend says, “I think the thing that sticks out to me the most is that you have your mind set on _____.” Fill in the blank of what they might say about their observations of your current life.

(e) **Family: Read Romans 8:5.** Prior to your lesson, prepare several pieces of paper on which you write the names of animals, birds, and/or reptiles whose walk would be fun for each person in your family. Fold them and place them in a bowl. Begin the lesson by having each family draw a piece of paper from the bowl and then “walk” like the creature they draw. Have the rest of your family guess what creature he/she is imitating. Then instruct everyone to, at the same time, “walk like a human being.” Use this object lesson to teach that no matter how much they tried, just because they “walked” like a certain creature they did not “become” that creature, but the reason they could so easily “walk” like a human is that they “are” a human. In the same way, Paul is going to teach us this week that when we “are” of the flesh, we are consumed with the thinking of the flesh, and when we “are” of the Spirit, we are consumed with the thinking of the Spirit.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 8:5-11.** What are the “things of the flesh” upon which those who are according to the flesh set their minds (don’t forget to include a look at v. 7 to help inform your answer; remember, context is king!)? What are the “things of the Spirit” upon which those who are according to the Spirit set their minds?

(b) What are the results of these 2 states of being (v.6)? About what kind of life & death is Paul speaking (e.g. physical, spiritual, both) and how do you know? What other verses come to mind from Romans 1-7 in which Paul has already spoken about these results?

(c) Using 2 lists, write down all the characteristics found in these verses that describe each state of being (“according to the flesh” & “according to the Spirit”). Are there any similarities between the lists? Is there any middle ground between the lists upon which any person can stand? Why do you think this is so, and what does it mean for your ministry of being a disciple who makes disciple-making disciplers?

(d) **Family: Read Romans 8:5-8.** Make a 2-columned list on your white board with these headings: “According to the Flesh” and “According to the Spirit.” Spend today populating these lists with the characteristics found in these verses, answering any questions, and save the list for future use this week (we will look at vs. 9-11 later this week).

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Rom. 8:5-11.** What is the relationship of the person whose mind is set on the flesh to God? Why is this so? What does not obeying God’s law have to do with the hostility (“for” in the middle of v. 7)?

(b) Why are non-believers (those who are according to the flesh) unable to submit to God’s law? Why is this statement so important in understanding what Paul is teaching in these verses?

(c) Is there a difference between one who is “in the flesh” (vs. 9-10) and one who is “according to the flesh” (v. 5)? Support your answer from the text.

(d) **Family: Read Rom. 8:5-9.** Return to the list you made last night and spend time explaining each characteristic and making a list of the types of things upon which each person (those in the flesh and those in the Spirit) would set their minds.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 8:5-11.** Why are those “in the flesh” unable to please God? How does this fact, coupled with the inability of those whose mind is set on the things of the flesh to submit to God’s law, support or challenge your understanding of the “I” in 7:13-25, especially in light of vs. 14 & 18b?

(b) What overarching paradigm that we have been considering in chapters 5-8 is represented in the word “in” in the phrases “in the flesh” and “in the Spirit?” How does this help us understand what Paul is teaching in 8:1-11?

(c) What is the requirement for someone to be “in the Spirit” (v. 9)? What is the result for the person who does not have this requirement met on his/her behalf? Explain the relationship between not having the Spirit and not belonging to God/not pleasing God/not able to submit to God’s law.

(d) What are the benefits, according to this passage, of having the Holy Spirit dwell in you? What affect should these truths have on your love for God? On your ability to love other people? On your ability to put to death sin? On your ability to live in joy & peace rather than sadness & chaos?

(e) *Family: Read Rom. 8:1-11.* Have your family identify every mention of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in these verses. There is a rich teaching on the trinity here that will give you a chance to teach your family about the roles of each of the three persons in the one Godhead and how they are all active in the salvation and sanctification of His people. Spend the most time in vs. 9-11 and unveil the richness of the Trinity in these verses. Don’t miss the 3 names Paul gives to the Spirit!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 8:1-17.** Explain what Paul means in vs. 10-11 by answering these questions: (1) To what does “body” refer in v. 10 (i.e. our bodies dying to sin and death as in Romans 6 or our physical bodies dying at our death)? (2) How has righteousness affected the Spirit being life? How does v. 11 help you answer questions 1 & 2 (Context is king!)?

(b) Identify and write down all of the references to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in Romans 8:1-17. This is one of the passages to which you can take someone who denies the Trinity, or who denies the salvific work of any of the three persons of the one Godhead because all three persons are shown as active and working with different roles in the process of salvation. Take special notice of the various names Paul gives to the Holy Spirit and what each of the 3 person’s role is.

(c) How do the truths in vs. 10-11 produce the peace promised in 8:6 & 5:1? Write down several ways that you are inclined toward lacking peace (anger, jealousy, gossiping, worry, anxiety, etc.) and write specific applications from Romans 8:5-11 that will help you overcome these areas in which you are prone to set your mind on the things of the flesh.

(d) *Family:* Lead your family through (c) above, or spend the lesson reviewing your memorization of Romans 6.

DATE: June 2, 2013**PASSAGE: Romans 8:5-11*****Who Are You?***

In Romans 8:5-11 Paul contrasts 2 groups of people to demonstrate what is required for those who would have the righteous requirement of the law fulfilled in them (8:4).