**R12 Session # 1**

**30,000 Feet: OVERVIEW OF ROMANS**

Welcome (Brandon)

Like to welcome you back, and welcome those of you who are new to the group.

Centering (Brandon) “Romans 12:1-2”

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)

Prayer Invite others to rotate

Review (Brandon)

Introductions (Group)

* Spirituality Questions #1, 2

FOUR CALLS OF CHRIST

We are spiritual thermostats, not the thermometer (Brandon)

* What are the differences? What does a thermostat do for your home? (Thermometer reacts, rises to the level, tells you what it is. Thermostat responds based on circumstances, controls the level, sets the temp)
* How does this serve as a metaphor for a disciple? (When we go into a room we set the conversation, the tone. If the you don’t do the convo, it won’t happen)
* (YOU) What will it take to get you to move from being a thermometer to a thermostat? (think about that that is what you are wherever you go)
* It’s about learning to respond verses how to react.

Why R-12? (Brandon) “Authentic Leadership”

*“To be a good* leader we must become a good follower.”

* R-12 is the greatest chapter of the greatest work of Paul.
* B/c we believe it is the synopsis of what we are to do. We know we are saved FROM Something, but also saved TO something. R-12 gets at what we are to do.
* God’s desire is for all of us to be a good leader (one on six, one on one) Joshua was a great leader, but before he became a great leader, he was a great follower (moses). This group with this study will help us develop into a good leader.
* R12 rivals r-8
* R-12 is the Magna Carta of Christianity.
  + Magna Carta birthed a country, we are birthing a movement on r-12
  + Barna Study, 1 out of 10 Christians actually LIVE like Christians
  + Our goal is get them to live like Christians
  + But “Christian” has lost its meaning. Technically, it means “little Christ,” now it is more political
  + R-12 shows us how to live like Christians, Christians making other Christians.
  + R-12 is the synopsis of what we are to do/be.
  + We know we are saved FROM something, but also TO something. R-12 gets at what we are saved TO DO.
  + In short, R-12 teaches us what it is we are supposed to be doing based on the freedom given to us.

OVERVIEW of Romans (Brandon) “Therefore, in view of God’s mercy”

* (YOU) As you read the first 11 chapters… did you run across verses that were familiar or meaningful to you?
* 11 chapters of painting a beautiful picture of how good God’s love and mercy has been to us, then we are hit with Chapter 12…key hinge word, “Therefore.”

Romans 1-2 Sinfulness of mankind

Romans 3-7 Forgiveness of sin through Christ

Romans 8 Freedom from Sin’s grasp

* (R-8) No longer live under the penalty of sin, or the power of sin, but we do live under the presence of sin
* (see r-7)—The thing I don’t want to do, I do…he wrote with R-8 in mind b/c of “Therefore”….therefore, there is now no condemnation…\_)
* (Metaphor)—Paper Mill smell. Canton, NC.
* Can’t buy the lie that you have to be perfect to be a disciple, or one who helps to make disciples.
* (YOU) How does this make you feel? How have you experienced the three P’s?

Romans 9-11 Israel’s past, present & future

* History lesson on Israel, why? It’s all about the God of Israel!

Romans 12 ff Therefore…

* Rest of r-12 forward….”In view of God’s mercy…”
* Rearview mirror/Windshield
  + - Rearview (small, but important)—look at how God has been good to us,
    - Windshield (large for a reason)—now, here’s how to live what we are to do…”be a living sacrifice”

10,000 feet: Overview of Romans 12We will spend the rest of our time on this one chapeter

* We will go over this efficiently, but we will drill down on each section more later.
* Paul/Jesus had 132 encounters with people, 10 in a religious setting, 122 in a social setting. Where do we tend to encounter people?

Five Pillars of Romans 12 (Executive Summary of an Authentic Christ-Follower/Leader) (21 verses)

* Will go through this quickly, because we will be drilling down on each of these in our weekly sessions.
* Romans 12 is built on 5 pillars, all built on relationships

READ VERSE BY VERSE

Your relationship with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**GOD**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…surrendered to God .v1

Surrendered to God (v.1) Abraham

Living Sacrifice term is tough for first century—blood offering

When you think of Abraham, what areas of surrender come to mind?

Give examples of surrender

* Two Reasons to surrender (completely defeated (General Lee)/completely loved (marriage))

The lord is crazy in love with us, Why wouldn’t we surrender to that?

What if worship is not a place, or order, but a surrender to God?

Your relationship with the \_\_\_\_\_**WORLD’S VALUES**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…separate from the world .v2

Separate from the World (v.2) Daniel

* We’ve been living conformed with the world’s values…We should not value what the world values.

How did Daniel separate himself from the world?

Who do you think about “separate from the world” modern day Daniels?

Your relationship with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**YOURSELF**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…sober self assessment .v 3-8

Sober Self-Assessment (v. 3-8) Moses

* Everyone is valuable

When you think of the word “sober” what does that word mean to you?

Why didn’t Moses enter the promised land? Struck the rock.

Can you truly self-assess? We need others to help. This group speaks into our lives, shows us our blind spots

Your relationship with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**OTHER BELIEVERS**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…serving in love v. 9-13

Serving in Love (v.9-13) Jonathan

* Serving love…how we relate to other believers

How is a Jonathan a servant (fit this scripture)? Friendship with David.

What was Jonathan’s motivation? Love

What is the opposite? Self-Serving

Your Relationship to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**UNBELIEVERS**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_… supernaturally responding to evil with good .v14-21

Supernaturally responding to Evil with Good (v.14-21) Joseph

* How to relate to unbelievers…not judge
* How to SUPERnaturally respond…MUST be supernatural because my natural reaction is NOT good.

Respond vs. React: What is a natural response to evil?

It is not natural to “turn the other cheek.” Respond requires supernatural involvement.

Circle respond, write reacting. What is the difference? Is respond what a disciple does? We want to lessen our reaction and increase our response. Less emotional, less self-preserving

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| React | Respond |
| Natural way to act when we are struck by stimulus | More in tune with Holy Spirit |
| emotional | Less emotional |
| Self-preserving | Less self-preserving |

Think about responding/Reacting—see people as captured…not good/bad/ evil…Now, how do I respond (not react).

v. 19 I ant to settle the scrore, I want to do it. When I don’t react, I’m leaving space for eth HS to respond. Like word “leave room”

Leave room for HS to speak, for people to respond.

**NEXT WEEK: Memorize Romans 12:1**

**Questions:**

1.) When you were growing up, what did it mean to be a good Christian?

2.) As you were growing up, what was your view of God? What was He like?

3.) How has your understanding changed?

4.) In your opinion, why are so many Christians “Stuck” and not growing spiritually?

5.) How do you define spiritual maturity?

6.) How would you describe the road to spiritual maturity to a brand new Christian?

7.) Over the course of your life, who or what has had the most impact on your spiritual growth?

8.) How would you describe your spiritual growth over the last 5 years? When did you grow the most?

9.) How satisfied are you with your spiritual health?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(Unhealthy) (Healthy)

Prayer requests:

Next Week: Read Romans 12. Memorize Romans 12:1

Closing: