

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #20: Brothers and Sisters in Christ (Part I)

INTRODUCTION

What have you appreciated most about your relationships with other Christians?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: In Christ we have a bond that is stronger than flesh and blood. We are now and will always be brothers and sisters in Christ, members of God's family. This passage introduces us to some of our first-relatives. As you read about them, notice the care they had for each other.

Read Romans 15: 14-33

1. Why did Paul feel the need to write an encouraging word to these Christians that he had never met? How did he keep pride from getting in the way? vv. 14-22
2. Paul thinks they were doctrinally sound. vs. 14 What does that look like? How did they get that way?
3. What did Paul mean that he hoped the Gentiles would become "an offering acceptable to God"? Vs 16 How can we become a similar offering?
4. In what sense are we priests like Paul? Vs. 16; **1 Pet 2:5; 9; Rev 1:6**
5. As a pioneer Paul ran into many roadblocks, yet he ministered where churches did not exist. Has the Holy Spirit ever pricked you to minister outside the church? Explain?
6. How would you describe Paul's attitude towards God's delay to go to Spain and Rome? Vv 23-24 How do you deal with God's delays? **Lk 14:28; Pr 16:9; Phil 2:13; Gen 50:20**
7. What does Paul teach us about relationships among first-century Christians? **1 Tim 1:5; 19**
8. If you have a moral obligation to do your best for your boss then what is your spiritual obligation to your brothers and sisters? To God?
9. If the relationship between Christians is part of our witness, how are we doing? How can we be open and honest to encourage accountability?
10. In our zeal to look good to outsiders, how can we *not* become hypocritical? (Have integrity)
11. How can we share material blessings with other Christians?

APPLICATION

How can you leave the doctrinal phase of knowing the Word to execute the personal and practical walk of spreading the Gospel?

I don't know why we picture righteous people as dull. But we do. And we picture them as rather grim. As standing to one side, with a disapproving look on their faces while others frolic. Somehow the righteous person shows up dressed in black, while everyone else wears bright and colorful clothes. Righteousness isn't like that at all! Rather than isolate us from others, for the first time we find it is possible to draw truly near. We find that the first fruit of the Spirit, love, warms and deepens our relationships with others who have become our brothers and sisters, one with us in the forever family of God. The second product, joy, makes the fellowship we share bright and colorful. Gal. 5:22-23 So let's exchange our old, mistaken picture of righteousness for the reality. Let's take off our imaginary suits of black and put on our brightest party clothes. The righteousness of God finds its fullest expression in Christ's new, loving, and joyful community. ¹