

Session 4: Pride & Prejudice—Viewing Ourselves and Others in Light of the Gospel of Christ

Romans

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1. The Problem Described

- We look at other people and we come to conclusions about them.
- In many cases we are predisposed to come to negative conclusions.
 - Not based on reality.
 - But based on subjective or superficial considerations.

2. The Root Identified (PRIDE)

- We look down on others because we are lifted up (high) in our own estimation.
- We compare ourselves with others and view them negatively because we have an overly inflated view of self.
- In some cases our view of others reflects a kind of legalistic mindset.

*"God must be more impressed w/ me than the person I'm looking down on. I must be closer to God b/c of how I differ from him/her."

3. The Solution Revealed

- The Gospel of Jesus Christ properly understood radically transforms the way we view ourselves and other. → so, it will target the foot.
- Rom. 12:1-2 Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. → The creation of a new human
- Rom. 12:3-8 Specifically in the way you view yourself and view/relate to others. The transforming of the 'mind' indicates that worthiness starts deeper than externals. Paul's 1st app. in verse 3 has to do w/ the way we view ourselves compared to others (i.e. thought patterns + heart). There is a worldly way to think and a transformed (Gospel-informed) way to think.

4. The Gospel Rehearsed

- Fact #1:** The Gospel is ultimately about God not about us.
 Rom. 1:17—the Gospel reveals the righteousness of God → the version is how a just God can declare unjust people just... the Gospel answers that!
 Rom. 11:33-36—the Gospel glorifies God's wisdom → God deserves to be excited...
- Fact #2:** The Gospel presents every human being as universally and justly condemned due to his or her personal righteousness.
 Rom. 1:18; 3:9-12, 19-20 → God's judgments are objective + based on fact (2:2, 6)

Even Jews - 3:1, 8

APP before God, everyone is in the same position before God in our condemnation. (like the various types of people doomed on a sinking ship)
 God's judgments are objectively based.

R. Rom. 1:1, 9, 15, 16

↓
 Rom. 1:18-8:39 is that Gospel that he wanted to preach to the believing Romans

APP Gospel reminds us that it's not our party; it's God's party all about Him!

APP Realize that God's offer of salv. is available to all. Acceptance before God is NOT based on performance, rationality, etc. So, do I accept God's offer? same way God relates to us? (Cor. 3:27)

APP He blessings I enjoy are NOT bc of me (personality, talents, choices, etc.) but bc of my standing in Christ. (1 Cor. 4)

c. Fact #3: The Gospel is good news because the saving righteousness of God is indiscriminately available to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

Rom. 3:22 — everyone is salvageable, b/c we are all sinners (v. 23) not by works, but faith — freely (v. 24, 27)

* Dogs are illustrative of God's universal acceptance.
* Cats are illustrations of our respecting of people.

d. Fact #4: The Gospel informs us that every blessing we now enjoy or ever will enjoy as justified believers is because of our union with Christ.

Rom. 5:1 — we have peace w/ God
Rom. 5:2 — we have access into grace
Rom. 5:12-21 — surpasses anything we lost in Adam

Rom. 6 — release from sin's tyranny
Rom. 8 — security
8:32

e. Fact #5: The Gospel, though multi-faceted, can be wrapped up and packaged in a single word: mercy.

Rom. 12:1 — I did NOT get what I deserved! I got what I didn't deserve!
Every blessing in chpts. 1-11 = MERCY (Tis mercy all in)

APP Rom. 12:3-8 =

5. The Gospel Applied

If my mind is being shaped by the Gospel I will be a person who ...

a. ...is humble -minded not high -minded.

b. ...views other believers as equals not subordinates because we share in a common grace and in a common faith that stems from a common Source --God Himself.

* The Gospel is the great leveler!

c. ...endeavors to maintain unity not uniformity.

d. ...engages in mutual service for the benefit of the body and appreciate the part that each member plays within the program of God.

Conclusion

The Gospel of Jesus Christ properly understood and personally applied radically transforms the way we view ourselves and others.

* The Gospel demands unity + purity.