




Romans: Our Family Culture

Romans 14:1-12

Ray Cortese, October 20 & 21, 2018

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read the sermon scripture(s) listed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Did you grow up in a family that was warm, loving, supportive, and encouraging? Or did you grow up in a family that was discouraging, quarrelsome, and broken? How did growing up in your family shape who you are today?
- 2 What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

OUR FAMILY PROBLEM

- 3 Were the Roman believers separating into tribes over culinary preferences, or was there something deeper going on?

- 4 *We are weak when we don't get the implications of the gospel.* The gospel is “Jesus plus nothing”. When we don't get the implications of the gospel we default to “Jesus plus keeping the rules”. Do you ever live this way? Do you ever wonder if you “have done enough” for Jesus to love you?
- 5 *We are weak when we are cut off from a healthy diversity.* What are your unique cultural blind spots that keep you from getting the gospel? Is it hard for you to be in a community of people who are not like you?

OUR FAMILY PRINCIPLE

- 6 The new members who joined this weekend vowed, “I submit myself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace.” In your own words, what is “church discipline”? How do people misuse Jesus' saying, “Judge not, lest ye be judged”?
- 7 *We ought to regard those in other denominations as our family.* Are you too critical of other Christians/churches?
- 8 *We must not divide over non-essentials.* What are some examples of essentials and non-essentials of Christianity?

OUR FAMILY POWER

- 9 *We welcome others because God has welcomed them.* What did Ray say was better than the golden rule?
- 10 *We welcome others because God welcomes us.* Read and discuss the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35).
- 11 Ray asked, “Who do you need to stop having disdain for?”

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?