



Lake Forest Church Sermon Discussions

Series: Fake ID, Part Two of Two Question Sets

Romans 8

Note to Leaders:

You may want to have a couple of extra Bibles on hand in case someone doesn't have one. Feel free to take a few from the sanctuary and then tell them to keep them. Have a small snack/dessert for the group when they gather and hang around the food to get to know each other as everyone begins to gather. Once everyone has arrived and it starts to feel natural to move into the room where you will have discussion, call them all together. Make sure phones are off, kids are taken care of and the room is free of distractions.

*If this is your first meeting, remind them of the time you will meet each week and talk about the following details: *everything here stays confidential; *childcare; *try to make at least five of the seven meetings; *have everyone sign up to bring a snack at least one of the next six meetings; *we will end on time each week and encourage you to share as much as you are comfortable.*

Pray for the time of study.

INTRODUCE IT

If your group is meeting the first time or have met many times, ask everyone in the group to go around and introduce themselves. Let them decide how they want to introduce themselves. Don't tell them what you want them to say. Just ask them to introduce themselves to everyone in the group.

Read the following quote by John Stott in his commentary on Romans:

"So in practice, we should constantly be reminding ourselves of who we are. We need to learn to talk to ourselves, and ask ourselves questions: 'Don't you know? Don't you know the meaning of your conversion and baptism? Don't you know that you have been united to Christ in his death and resurrection? Don't you know that you have been enslaved to God and have committed yourself to his obedience? Don't you know these things? Don't you know who you are?' We must go on pressing ourselves with such questions, until we reply to ourselves: 'Yes, I do know who I am, a new person in Christ, and by the grace of God I shall live accordingly.'" - John Stott, *Romans; God's Good News for the World*, p 187

After hearing this quote and thinking about how we all introduced ourselves, what is different about how we introduced ourselves and what Stott is stressing about "knowing who we are?"

What does this quote stir in you? What is he trying to get at and address in this quote?

STUDY IT

Turn to Romans 8 and have someone in the group read verses 1-8.

The author of this book is a guy named Paul, who we studied all this summer. Paul is talking about two types of people in these verses. The one that lives by the Spirit and the one that lives by the sinful nature. What are all the ways that he says they are different?

*Those living by Spirit: no condemnation; free from law of sin and death; righteous requirements of the law are fully met in them; mind set on things of the Spirit; mind of life and peace;

*Those living by the sinful nature: condemnation of sin in them; under law of sin and death; minds set on what sinful nature desires; mind is death; hostile to God; doesn't and can't submit to God's ways; cannot please God.

Paul talks here about a law. He is talking about all the laws we read in the Old Testament (10 commandments; oral laws; ritual laws; etc...) He describes this law as being weakened by the sinful nature. In order to understand what he is talking about, as a group, tell examples of how a "rule/law" you learn about makes you aware of something you are doing wrong.

* Tell a child, 'don't touch that' makes them want to touch it

* Going 80 MPH on a highway and it's ok until you see a police officer. You slow down quickly.

In the same way, when God sent his laws in the OT, people became very aware of their sin because they now had a measuring stick. But God's laws were not sent to take the sin they noticed away. It was only able to expose it. The sinful nature kept people from being able to keep these laws. What does Paul tell us was powerful enough to take those sins away and how does he describe the result?

*vs 3: sending of his Son Jesus; as a sin offering; he condemned the sin but not men-no condemnation for us; requirements of the law were met because Jesus lived a perfect life.

Have someone in the group read verses 9-11.

Who does Paul say his readers are? What is the only requirement for being this?

*Controlled by the Spirit; only requirement is if the Spirit of God lives in us.

What does he mean in verse 10?

*Our physical bodies will still die but not our spirit

What is the longer outcome though he describes in verse 11?

*Even our physical bodies will be given life.

After reading this section, you should be left with the question, "well how do I know that the Spirit of God is in me?" This question can be answered in two ways. The first way: Go back to verses 1-8 and speak again as a group all the ways the person that is living by the Spirit is described as opposed to one not.

*see the answer to this question above.

The second way to answer this question is found in the next verses. **Read verses 12-17.**

What else does Paul say about those living by the Spirit in these verses?

*We have an obligation to actually live like we are of the Spirit; put to death the misdeeds of the body; we are children of God; no longer slaves to fear; we can approach God as Father; all that God has is ours-we are heirs; we suffer as Jesus suffered but we have life in this.

Whenever you see the word, "therefore" you have to ask, "what is the 'therefore' there for?" In verse 12 we see a 'therefore'. It means that all the things Paul is about to list should happen because of what we just talked about. Verses 1-11 can be described as things God did in us through his son Jesus. Verses 12-17 can be described as things we do BECAUSE God did the things he did in 1-11.

In what ways do we try to reverse this? In other words, how do you day in and day out do things "for" God to "make" him love you as opposed to doing things "because" he loved you?

*Go to church, read Bible, say good things, don't cuss, etc... in order that God will see that I deserve his love as opposed to doing these things because this is who I am-because of what God has done.

USE IT:

Leader: Go to [this link](#) and print copies of these "Who I am in Christ" sheets for everyone in the group to have.

On the following sheet are all the descriptions the Bible gives for those that are followers of Christ-those living by the Spirit. As a group, go around and read through each of these, noting ones that stand out to you. Share as a group which ones stood out to you and why.

If this is truly who you are, share how you believe this will even change the way you live day in and day out.

When you get home, put this sheet on your bathroom mirror and each week, highlight one or two of these descriptions and try to focus on the fact that these are true of you because of what Jesus did.

PRAYER:

Father, we can call you this because of what you have done. Thank you. This week, would you help us to live out of who we are based on what you have done and not live out of who we "feel" like we are because of what we have done. Let us be who you have made us to be and may that honor you. In Jesus name, Amen.