



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHEN IN ROMANS

The Threat of Self-Righteousness

Romans 2:1-4

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

"...for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself..."Romans 2:2b

Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2:4

In Romans chapter 1, Paul admonishes those engaging in idolatry and wickedness. Jon reminds us that our human nature is to assume Paul is talking about "others" here, not ourselves. Paul, a very clever and strategic author, uses these harsh words to set up his message to us about God's grace in chapter 2.

Paul convicts us of our own self-righteousness in chapter 2, reminding us that it is as great of a threat as idolatry mentioned in chapter 1. Discuss these two questions and how you can apply these practices to your own life:

What is self-righteousness?

- When we are convinced that our own righteousness is in contrast to others
- When we relish the opportunity to judge others

How might we become less self-righteous?

Begin with these 3 practices:

- 1) *Observe the 5-minute rule: when we stop listening, our chance for self-righteousness increases*
- 2) *Avoid virtue-signaling: when we express opinions with the intention of seeking accolades from others*
- 3) *Pray this prayer: "Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."*

As people "still in process," we must accept that it is not defeating to recognize that we are all sinners in need of grace. What is defeating, however, is not realizing that God's kindness is what leads us to repentance, and to grow in our mercy toward others.

How can you practice better acceptance of God's gifts of kindness, forbearance, and patience?

How can your ability to receive God's mercy and your compassion towards others grow as a result?

Heavenly Father, thank you for your kindness. Help it to fill us with your mercy as we extend it to others. Amen.