



Purley Baptist Church

Discipleship Guide 4th October 2020

Building community Romans 12:1-8

This Week's BIG IDEA: The community of God is characterised by living humble lives of sacrifice, not conforming to the pattern of the world that values people who make an impact for themselves. Each of us has gifts and service vital to the community of God. Paul says we each belong to the other, and urges us to see ourselves and those gifts with sober judgement, to see ourselves as we are before God and to be operating in those gifts in all their fullness, blessing the entire body accordingly.

CONNECT IN: Here's an ice breaker questions you might want to use this week

- If your house were on fire, what three items (not people) would you try to save?

CONNECT UP: Fix your eyes on God and give him an opportunity to speak to you through his Word – hear what Paul is admonishing us to do, and think about what God might be asking you in the light of this.

Starter... Can you think of a time when someone gave some prophecy that impacted you - or the church or meeting you were in at the time?

Read the passage

1) (V1) How does our understanding of traditional Jewish sacrifice help us understand what offering our bodies as 'Living sacrifices' might entail? (*See notes on sacrifice below) What does it mean in your life?

2) (v2) James spoke about **'self-actualization' as the ultimate human goal in describing pattern of this world – does this idea resonate with you at all? How does living for God differ from that?

3) (V4-8) Have you seen that God has given you gifts? Paul talks about 'belonging to each other. (v5) Do you see your gifts as part of the giftings in the rest of the body, which complement each other?

4) In this time of lockdown where we are fragmented, which social groupings are you still a part of where God can outwork his grace through you? (Family, parents groups, work, study etc)

*(Notes on sacrifice) The term “sacrifice” comes from a Latin word meaning “to make something holy.” The most common Hebrew equivalent is korban, “something brought near,” i.e., to the altar.

One way to think about ancient sacrifices is as “gifts” given to God. When they performed sacrifices, ancient Israelites gave to God some of what they believed God had given them, expressing their close relationship with God and seeking to deepen that bond.

In the Bible, sacrifice always involves transformation. One of the most common ways to transform something is to destroy it. Destruction removes the animal from the ordinary realm and transfers it to a transcendent one. Biblical texts tell us that God received the smoke of the burning sacrifice as a “pleasing odor” (see, for example, Lev 1:13). In so doing, God enjoyed a fellowship meal with human beings in God’s dwelling on earth—the temple. - bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/related-articles/sacrifice-in-ancient-israel

**Self Actualization - the realization or fulfilment of one's talents and potentialities, especially considered as a drive or need present in everyone. – Oxford Dictionary

CONNECT OUT as a group to serve the world around you

Take time to pray about the social groups you are a part of and that the God’s grace will flow through you, and your giftings will be used, to bring his blessing, perhaps in unexpected ways

Heartbeat

Please join us in praying for our Missionaries Nick and Amanda Lunn:

Give thanks that Nick's work with his three Bible translation projects is steadily progressing via Skype. He is currently working on translations of Exodus, Proverbs, and Isaiah, and all are going well.

Please pray for the Nairobi street-boy project (International Needs) that Amanda is connected with. The current situation with the pandemic has made life on the streets even more difficult.