

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Arrogant: What Right do you Have?

Passages: Romans 11:17-24

Introduction: John covered the section of Romans 11 where Paul focuses on Gentile believers. Using the analogy of a tree, Paul points to the promises to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) as the root of the people of God. He compares the branches to the people and notes that while currently most Jews reject Jesus as the Messiah, there will come a day when many will believe in Him. And because salvation is by faith for all of God's people, none of us have reason to boast that we are a part of the people of God.

Additional passages: Psalm 25:8-14, Proverbs 26:1-12, James 4:6-8, 1 Peter 5:5-6; John 1:11-12, Eph 2:8-9.

Questions:

1. What do Proverbs 26:1-12, James 4:6-8, and 1 Peter 5:5-6 have to say about the destructiveness of pride? Why is pride such a big deal to God?
2. In Romans 8:20, Paul tells the Gentile Christians "do not become proud, but fear." Reflecting on John's sermon and Psalm 25:8-14, how would you explain what it means to fear the Lord? How does fearing the Lord and living in relationship with the Lord fit together?
3. John noted that there is no room for arrogance in the lives of believers. He gave some examples of situations in which we might be tempted to be arrogant: if you are white, viewing yourself as better than black people; if you are a legal American citizen, viewing yourself as better than people who are illegally in the country. **Are their groups of people you struggle with being prejudiced against? How is it going with rejecting prejudice for a biblical view of seeing all people as sinners in need of a Savior?**
4. The Bible teaches that all true believers will be saved because God will preserve them to the end (John 10:27-29, Rom 8:28-39, Phil 1:6). At the same time, if someone does not continue living by faith in Jesus they will not be saved (Heb 2:1-4, 6:4-6, 10:26, 39). This tells us that some people only appear to profess faith, but if they turn their back on Jesus they were not saved to begin with (Judas, John 2:19). **Discuss these biblical teachings.**
 - a. **What questions does it raise for you?**
 - b. **What practical action should we take towards those who profess faith in Jesus, but whose lives do not show a desire to display the holiness of Jesus?**
5. God's sovereignty and human responsibility fit together in a way that we can only partially understand. **How can God's sovereignty calm our fears that we will not be saved? How can the importance of human responsibility stir us to keep looking to Christ by faith?**
6. Is there someone in your life who once professed faith in Christ, but has now walked away from Jesus? How does this passage in Romans encourage you to keep praying for them?