WELCOME

TO NORTHSHORE

LIFE GROUPS
WEEK 9 · NOV 5

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT: Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER: There are two types of people when it comes to loading the dishwasher. One loads it like a Swiss architect, the other loads it like a distracted raccoon, and they marry each other. Which type are you?

BACKGROUND

As an apostle of the gentiles, Paul was eager to minister to the believers in Rome. He was aware that false teachers were already in Rome, or would be shortly. He also realized that his present obligations to the Church in Corinth, and his need to first return to Jerusalem would delay his opportunity to travel to Rome. Paul wrote the letter to introduce himself and to aid the believers in Rome until his eventual arrival.

The first eight chapters of Romans provide instruction on the essential Christian doctrines of the Gospel. In Chapter 12 Paul changes his focus from the Christian doctrines to the Christian believer's duty in response to God's grace; *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect* (Romans 12:1-2). Paul was not laying down rules of conduct, but principles to guide the believer in this life, in our relationships with other believers, and with everyone else. He further expands this Christian duty to include the proper uses of our spiritual gifts as given by God for the growth of the Church. Those instructions also included warnings of their wrong usage and improper attitudes which can creep in and undermine the unity of the body of Christ, the Church.

This week we had the opportunity to learn more about two huge segments of the body we call Northshore: the Academy and Early Learning Center.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?

KEY VERSE: Romans 12:4-5

For just as each of us has one body and many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

READ: Romans 12:1-13

HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. Define "sacrifice". Compare and contrast the Old Testament sacrifices of animals with the kind of sacrifice Paul is urging Christians to be (examples can be found in Leviticus 16).

2. How is the word "world" used in this context?
   (See Galatians 1:3-5 & Ephesians 2:1-2.)

3. In Romans 12:4-5, to what does Paul compare Christians? How does this illustration help you understand the way Christians are to relate to one another?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

1. Share truths concerning God's gifts to Christians from the following verses.
   a. 1 Corinthians 7:7
   b. 1 Corinthians 12:4
   c. Ephesians 4:11-13
   d. 1 Peter 4:10-11

2. What instructions does Paul give to maintain unity within the local congregation and in the universal Church (Pastor Scott explained what this is a couple of weeks ago)? See Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:1-6.

HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. How does the world tell people to think of themselves in our culture? What does it mean to think of oneself with sober judgment?

2. In what ways has pattern of this world crept into your thinking, choices, habits, outlook, relationships or priorities?

HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. List the seven gifts in these verses. Give an example of how each can be exercised within the extended body called Northshore Christian Church and Academy.

2. Which gifts do you have? What have you found most rewarding about using the gifts God has given you?

MEMORY VERSE: Romans 12:5

. . . so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

PRAYER REQUESTS
(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)