



Sep 24,
2017

BELONG

As a group, discuss the following - what is the value of a mirror? Does a mirror ever encourage you? Does a mirror ever disappoint you?

Read the quote from C.S Lewis, "I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most perfect person I can think of; for to have been thought about, born in God's thought, and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest, and most precious thing ever. Discuss Lewis' statement in the context of Paul's exhortation "not to think of himself more highly than he should think." – are we not the crown of God's creation, made in his likeness?

GROW

Paul begins chapter 12 in part stressing the importance of thinking....in fact, he says in renewing our minds we are transformed leading us out of conformance to this world. Paul values right thinking. This leads him into the verses that follow Romans 12:2.

1. **Keep it Real** a. In verse 3 – Paul instructs believers "not to think more highly of themselves than they should" What may be inferred from his words "more highly"? What is the basis for this inference? (hint – reread Lewis' quote)
2. **Maintain Perspective** a. In verse 4 – Paul provides an alternative to the danger of "thinking more highly" of oneself when he simply says, "Instead, think sensibly" (HCSB) given everyone has been gifted in some manner. NASB translates Paul's encouragement as to "have sound judgment" ESV translates Paul's encouragement as to "think with sober judgement." As a group, develop a paraphrase that Paul might use today if he were speaking with Gracespring Bible Church.
b. It seems based on v.3, the instruction of v.4 is given to the individual, therefore, discuss as a group how "sound judgment, sober mindedness, and thinking sensibly" is to be lived out in light of the truths discussed in v.3.
3. **Be Alert** a. The reality is there are forces that have the potential and/or desire to move us off the track of sober/sound judgment and thinking sensibly about ourselves. Read 1st Peter 5:8 – there is a real Adversary prowling around us. Discuss as a group the idea of "prowling" as it relates to the enemies attempts to hinder our sound judgement and sensible thinking? a. Share in what areas you're most vulnerable to this prowling? What voices speak falsely about you? Does your own? If so, how?

Read the following and discuss the source of pride and whether it's a positive or negative reality for a person: Proverbs 29:23 & Jeremiah 4:2 (suggests a proper source of pride)

REACH

Can we admit we have at some time in our lives, perhaps even today, we have thought more highly of ourselves than we should have? What has been or is the impact on those around you? Have you turned others off to the person of Jesus because of it? Have you avoided ministry to others as a result of this held position?

GOINGDEEPER (guys/gals) - We know the saying, "pride comes before the fall". Are you at risk of falling? Are you walking near the edge and not sure how to get back on the path? Share how the group can come along side and help.

"We must be willing to be outshone while shining for God. We hear very little about being smaller in our own self-estimate" – Ravi Zacharius. Discuss this quote in light of this study....what risks are you facing that prevent you from being smaller? Do you wish to be smaller? How can the group support and pray for you?