

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

10/28/18

Text: Romans 14:13-15:1 (ESV)

Title: Love and Conscience

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In the sermon today we looked at the importance of loving our Christian brothers and sisters in our daily lives despite the differences in our conscience or convictions. So often we can take our personal convictions and make them standards by which we both define the “right” way to live out the Christian life, and we exercise our own personal freedoms without concern for our brother. Even though we are “free in Christ” to eat and drink and carry out our daily lives, in our brokenness we can selfishly promote our own freedoms without first seeking to love others, especially when their conscience differs from our own. The amazing story of the gospel is that Jesus did not value his own comfort or preferences above his love for his people. Rather, he sacrificed everything for the sake of loving and saving his worst enemies and making them his beloved children. Because of Christ’s love we can both live freely to enjoy all God has created, and be empowered to love our Christian brothers and sisters with the same love Christ has offered us.

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said that God’s evaluation is what truly matters, and he has made it clear that he is of primary importance, people are secondary, and everything else is a distant third.*
 - ***In what areas are we most at risk of getting that value system wrong?***
 - ***What do find yourself loving more than people?***
2. *As Christians we can tend to believe there is a truly “right” and “wrong” way to carry out our lives. Tim talked about the myriad of issues that create tension in Christian circles... (Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, Politics/Causes, School choice, Vaccines, Halloween...)*
 - ***How have you seen your convictions about a certain area cause tension in a relationship? How as that become a hindrance for love?***
 - ***What things do you talk about as if they are the “Christian” way to live?***
3. *Because of his great love and mercy, Jesus entered into our miserable estate, and saved his enemies, people like you and me, who couldn’t be more different from him, and gave us the freedom and the power to love just as he did.*
 - ***What kind of people are the hardest for you to love?***
 - ***What would it look like to ask Jesus for help, get past your personal convictions, and reach out in love to those people?***

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

1. Worship the Lord for His love and His good, righteous design. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for such a full and wise plan.
2. How have you condemned others for behavior that is not necessarily wrong, or hurt others by being willful? Confess your pride and selfishness to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to change your heart.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for setting down His comforts and preferences to meet our needs, to save sinners like us. Thank Him for honoring His Father's will to restore goodness in this world and to make us whole.
4. Who do you know that is struggling? Pray for them, asking the Lord to give them a sense of security in His grace (His work on their behalf), and ask Him to help you to better know how to encourage them as well.
5. Ask the Spirit for wisdom in how to live out the implications of the gospel. Pray for the freedom that you're promised in God's Word and at the same time, the love for others that can govern your appetites.