

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

11/18/18

Text: Romans 116:1-20 (ESV)

Title: Names Matter Because People Matter

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 chapter 16 of Romans the Apostle Paul is commending the church to receive and honor his fellow workers in the gospel. In the passage, Paul is recognizing and naming people from Greek, Roman and Hebrew cultures and a breadth of cultural, political, financial and social backgrounds. As Tim said, Paul calls out so many people in his letter by name because people matter, both to Paul and to God. In our selfish and divisive hearts, we can twist God's design and rather than loving people and using things, instead we love things and use people. Without Jesus as our center and our defining character, we can live in denial, anxiety, and distanced from everyone around us. The beauty of the gospel is that God does not leave us to fend for ourselves, nor does he devalue us because of our sin and brokenness. Because of Christ, God calls us out by name, giving us honor, and He values us above even His own life, because He loves us. People are His prized possession. And to honor and love them, is to follow in the footsteps of God.

Reflection Questions:

1. As Tim said, one of the things we learn from scripture is that People matter to God more than anything else in the universe. Contrary to the world's standard of value (beauty, success, wealth, comfort, ease, power) God values and honors all of His people.

 - **How have you seen yourself weigh the value of a person, or relationship, based on a worldly standard?**
 - **In contrast to the world's standard, why is it hard to believe God would love the ugly, failure, poor, uncomfortable, hard and weak??**
2. Tim said without resting in Christ as our defining trait, we will live in Denial ("I'm really not that bad"), Anxiety ("Will this last? Can I really be sure?"), and Distance ("If people really knew who I was they would shriek, puke and run").

 - **How have you experienced one, or all of these over the years?**
 - **Where is a broken understanding of peoples' value most evident to you?**
3. When Moses asked God his name he answered, ("Yahweh") "I Am". Only for God is that a "complete sentence," because he is not contingent or dependent on anything; but we are. God's calling us by name declares we belong to Him, and He is responsible for us.

 - **What does it mean that you get to call God by His name?**
 - **Where is your greatest opportunity to call people to and honor and love them?**

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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 the wide spectrum He has built into His world and His creatures. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for how He has uniquely created you and equipped you for His kingdom.
2. How have you looked down on those different from you, or envied others feeling inferior. Confess your unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and secure you in His perfect work in creating and saving you.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He has been willing to own us, especially in our failures and sin. Thank Him for revealing His Name to you and His work to own you to save you.
4. Who do you know that is struggling with their sense of identity or purpose? Ask the Lord to encourage them in His love and that the Holy Spirit would give them wisdom and insight.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow within you a sense of your place in God's kingdom – in learning where your gifts and the world's needs intersect best. Ask Him to help you grow wiser in your dealings with people.