



## Connect Discussion Guide

03.13.22 Message | Tyler Myers | Romans 1:8-15

### Key Scriptures:

*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

- Romans 1:8-15

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,*

*“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- Romans 8:35-39

### Message Highlights:

- It is time the church starts measuring the capacity of God's heart
- Israel, God's people, missed the point because they shrunk God's heart to fit within themselves rather than expanding their lives to mature into the capacity of God's heart and promises for the world
- Spend less time measuring how we measure up with the trending metrics around us and more time measuring how we are expanding our capacity to have God's heart more fully matured in us

**Conversation Starter:**

Tell about a time when someone completely surprised you through a random act of kindness. Why were you surprised? How did that impact your relationship with them going forward?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. Contemplate and respond to A.W. Tozer's thought, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."
  - a. What happens when we perceive God as too big?
  - b. What happens when we perceive God as too small?
2. Look up the following scriptures and note how they give voice to your understanding of the size of God's heart:
  - a. Matthew 28:18-20
  - b. 2 Peter 3:9
  - c. Romans 8:38-39
3. What is Paul's heartbeat in Romans 1:11-12?
  - a. What is the difference between complimenting someone and truly encouraging someone in the faith as Paul speaks of here?
  - b. Do you have someone you intentionally invest in by giving them spiritual encouragement? Further, do you have someone that intentionally invests in you in this way?
4. Did this message highlight any "blind spot" areas where you've been giving too much precedence to in measuring their importance in your life?
  - a. How might your life be impacted by giving ultimate precedence to the measure of God's great love for you rather than any other measure of love?
  - b. What is one scripture you might commit to memory that will help you hold the reality of the size of God's heart close to you?
5. What God heart sized dream is inside of you? What step might you take to walk with the spirit in that direction?

**Pray:**

*Father in heaven, we thank you for the love which you have demonstrated for us through your Son, Jesus our Christ. We confess that there are days when we feel weak and incapable of living in light of your love. Remind us, by your Spirit, that we are more than conquerors through Christ and that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Help us, by your grace, to stop trying to measure up and then beating ourselves up when we fail to be perfect. Help us instead to measure the capacity of your love for us so that we might live in that freedom, the freedom to love you back and to love others fully. Amen.*