

SESSION 1: CULTURE AND FAITH IN CONFLICT

We're talking today about the influence of culture. How can we, as Christians, live a holy life in the midst of an ungodly culture?

- In what ways do you think America has become, as David Nasser says, the “great inventors of so many heart-breaking things?”
- What does the statement, “Let your life be a testimony to God” mean to you?
- Read **Romans 1:29-31**. What are some of the words Paul uses to describe the Roman people?
- What are some consequences of living this way without God?
- Read **Romans 12:1-5**. What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God?
- Why can it be so easy to conform to what is going on around us?
- How do you renew your mind on a daily basis? What difference do you see when your mind is controlled by the Spirit vs. your own desires?
- How can serving and using your gifts keep you from being influenced by the world's deceptions?

CHALLENGE

Consider picking a TV show, podcast, or movie that you regularly watch/listen to and substitute that time with reading a few chapters out of Romans.

FURTHER STUDY

Read **Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:13**, and **10:9**. Write about the time that you first believed that Jesus Christ died and rose again for your sin?

How are you grateful for the gift of salvation in your life?

SESSION 2: NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

The Apostle Paul has given us directions that lead us to the best place we could ever possible be in life. We're talking today about sin and our need for a Savior. Our salvation is based solely on grace through faith; not by our good works. How can we begin to grasp this gift of grace?

- Explain the illustration of the “courtroom of life.”
- Why is it so easy to think we have to earn God’s love and favor?
- Read **Romans 3:23**. What is God’s glory and how have you fallen short of His glory?
- Read **Romans 6:23** and **Ephesians 2:8**. How are you “saved?” What are you “saved” from? What is the gift of God? How are we saved?
- Read **Romans 5:8** and **John 15:13**. What is significant of “while we were still sinners?” How would you describe a love like this?
- Read **Romans 10:13** and **Acts 2:21**. Why is hearing a clear presentation of what God has done through Jesus Christ critical in believing and calling on the name of the Lord?
- Read **Romans 10:9**. How does confessing “Jesus is Lord” go hand in hand with repenting of your sins and surrendering your will to God’s?

CHALLENGE

Consider memorizing one verse from the “Roman Road.” (**Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:13 or 10:9**) Tape it on your bathroom mirror or in a place you’ll see regularly. Allow the words to sink into your heart. Share them with someone who’s never heard before.

FURTHER STUDY

Read **2 Timothy 2:1-7**. What is a specific truth you’ve taught someone that was very important for him or her to know?

When have you competed for something to win a prize? How was it rewarding?

SESSION 3: KEEP THE FAITH

**Our calling as Christians is to stand firm on the word of God and to endure hardship and persecution.
How can we learn to keep our faith in the midst of adversity?**

- What do you think David Nasser meant when he said the call of ministry is the call of Christianity?
- In the video, David talked about “Red Bull Christianity” where it’s all go-go-go. Why does David discourage being a caffeinated Christian?
- Read **2 Timothy, 2:1-7**. Why do you think Paul encourages Timothy to be “strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus”?
- How does Paul relate our work for the Lord to a teacher (**vs. 2**), soldier (**vs. 3-4**), athlete (**vs. 5**), and farmer (**vs. 6**)? How does that look in your life?
- Read **2 Timothy 4:1-8**. Explain Paul’s words: “They will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”
- Why is it so easy for us to follow after teachers who make us “feel” good?
- The following sentence is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
What is Paul really saying?
- What would it look like for you to stand firm “in and out of season”? How would you like your life to look at the end?

CHALLENGE

Consider writing a letter of encouragement to someone you think needs it. Write your letter on a traditional note card (no email!) expressing how much you appreciate him or her.

FURTHER STUDY

Read **Galatians 1:11-17**. How does your relationship with Christ affect your everyday relationships?

How can you better focus on God’s wisdom instead of man’s wisdom?

We're talking today about the radical life change in Paul that even resulted in a name change from Saul to Paul. Up until the end of his life, he lived passionately for the sake of the gospel. Do we live for Christ and his glory and not for ourselves?

- David Nasser talked about Paul's amazing life and martyr death. What are some moments that truly defined your faith?
- Read **Acts 9:1-8**. What is unique about the Lord's first question to Paul?
- Read **Acts 9:17-19**. Verse 18 says that something like scales fell from Paul's eyes and he could see again. What do you think this must have been like for him?
- Read **Galatians 1:11-17**. Why is verse 11 so critical to Paul's entire ministry?
- Read **Psalms 139:13-16**. How does it make you feel to know God's eyes saw your unformed body before you were born?
- What does Paul mean in **vs 15-16 of Galatians 1**, "and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his son in me...?"
- Read **Galatians 2:19-21**. What does Paul mean by saying, "I died to the law"?
- What does "dying to the law" and "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" look like in your life?

CHALLENGE

Draw or write out significant "snapshots" in your life. What picture represents this stage of your life?

FURTHER STUDY

Read the rest of **Chapter 1 in Galatians**. How can you find friends and partners who have a similar mission in life?

How can you better articulate your story of faith to others?