

Sermon Series: Transformation

Sermon: Relationally Connected - Vertically and Horizontality

Romans 12:1-21

When my wife, Lois, fixes a roast in the crockpot, she places the meat in the crockpot along with other vegetables and seasoning. She then sets the crockpot to the low setting about 10:00 on Saturday night. By morning the roast, the seasonings and the vegetables have blended together during the night. Even though the meal still has several hours before we will consume it as a family, the aroma is so wonderful and it fills the house. Numerous places in the Old Testament we read the words about a sacrifice that it was a pleasing aroma unto God.

In Romans 12 we see relationships that are pleasing to God both vertically and horizontally. Paul gives us five directives that help us to be relationally connected to God and others.

Discussion Questions:

- Paul uses the word “Therefore” as he begins chapter 12. Why do you think that Paul uses this conjunction at this point in his letter?
- Someone has said in a commentary that when we see the word “therefore” in the Bible, we need to ask the question, “What is it there for?”
- What are some mercies that you can name from the Bible?
- What are some mercies that you can list from God in your own life and from others?
- In the Old Testament, a sacrifice that was offered to God, was killed so it was a dead sacrifice. Why do you think Paul uses the phrase “living sacrifices”?

Examination: Paul’s five directives

We need the vertical relationship – verses 1-2

- Why is the vertical relationship with God so essential when we think of relationships with others?
- The origin of the word *transformed* is from the Greek - the same word that we get metamorphous. What are some things of nature that have a metamorphous experience?
- How does the metamorphous happen in our spiritual lives according to Paul?

We need to know who we are – verses 3-5

- The philosopher Socrates purported the statement “Know Thyself!”
- How can a person really get to know themselves – who they are?
- Every human being is looking for significance and security. How can these be found?

We need to use our Spiritual Gifts for others and God’s Glory – verses 6-8

- God gives to each of us talents and skills – what are some that you have?
- Spiritual Gifts are really gifts that God gives to us via the Holy Spirit. Do you know what your Spiritual Gift(s) are?
- How do you believe that Spiritual Gifts can be discovered?

We need to let love be our foundational truth – verses 9-16

- What did Jesus say about love in John 13:34-35?
- Love connects us with other believers. How is that played out in your life?
- Love connects us with the unsaved. How is that shown through you?

We need to let God work – verses 17-21

- Paul gives us several imperatives in verses 9 to 21. See how many you can find.
- There is a place for confrontation in the Christian life when we have conflicts. What advice does Paul give?

APPLICATION:

In these five directives from the Apostle Paul, where do you need the Holy Spirit to help you in being relationally connected?