

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: How to Survive Cancel Culture February 20/21, 2021

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

Following God in a culture that doesn't is easier said than done. The book of Romans is full of foundational gospel truth that will teach us how our faith can influence the world around us, instead of letting others tell us what to believe – especially in the places where Christianity and culture collide.

Use our Weekly Reflection Guide, in community or through personal study, to live out what we're learning on the weekends. It's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you. Choose the questions that are meaningful to you, then be REAL with self, God or others as you reflect, respond and pray.

1. Read/Reflect/Respond: For the past several weeks, Romans Chapter 1 has challenged us to see others in light of our commitment to biblical truth. Now, Paul turns the tables and reminds us we're not off the hook.

- Read and reflect on Romans 2:1-11 NLT. How are you challenged, instructed or encouraged?
- Respond to God – that might include confession, prayer or praise.

2. Building our Faith: God hasn't called us to win others to our side by building popularity and platform. Rather, He's asked us to win others to Him, by building our faith on the solid foundation of His truth.

²⁴Everyone who hears my teaching and applies it to his life can be compared to a wise man who built his house on an unshakable foundation...²⁶“But everyone who hears my teaching and does not apply it to his life can be compared to a foolish man who built his house on sand.” Matthew 7:24, 26 TPT

- Be REAL with self. What are you currently working to build up in your life?
- What motivates you? Are you building with God or are you sacrificing your faith along the way?
- How can you seek God first and trust that He will give you everything you need? [Matthew 6:33 NLT]

3. Cancel Culture: When we believe something strongly, we can fall into the trap of condemning those who disagree with us, even living with a double standard. God will hold us accountable for what we do with what we know. There's a marked difference between judging others and using wise judgement.

“Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.” Matthew 23:28 NLT

⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 NIV

- How do you treat people who look, live, believe differently than you do? Can you choose kindness despite disagreement? Can you stand for truth and still speak in love? Or does “being right” reign in your heart?
- Be REAL with God. Invite Him to search your heart and show you anywhere you may be judging others rather than exercising wise judgement that honors Him and all He's done for you.

Cultivate Kindness God gives us all a chance to change. Who in your life do you need to extend that same chance too? This doesn't mean restoring a relationship that could hurt you, but it might mean letting go of offense or quick judgement that damaged an otherwise healthy relationship.

4. The Comparison Trap: Sometimes we get so focused on what's happening around us, we lose sight of what's happening within us. Rather than look inward or upward, we look outward comparing our lives with others and even questioning God's goodness to us.

“A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.” Proverbs 14:30 NIV

- Where in your life are you watching others instead of working on yourself? How is that impacting your health – physically, spiritually, relationally or emotionally?
- Identify one way you want to work on yourself AND one way you can intentionally pursue that change. When you're tempted to look around or give up, turn toward God, asking Him to help you remember His goodness.