

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: Have You Been Blinded?

March 6/7, 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. Reflect/Respond: As Pastor Fredo tackled the issue of hypocrisy, he addressed the fact that we've grown skeptical and reluctant to take people at their word – in part due to wounds from both inside and outside the Church. Do you find that to be true in your life? How were you encouraged, challenged or instructed by the message?

2. Truly Seeing Ourselves: The problem with hypocrisy is that we're rarely self-aware enough to know we're suffering from it. That's why it's vital that we cultivate God's word into our lives – not only does it guide us, but it invites us into change.

"I have a special word of caution for you who are sure that you have it all together yourselves and, because you know God's revealed Word inside and out, feel qualified to guide others through their blind alleys and dark nights and confused emotions to God. While you are guiding others, who is going to guide you?" Romans 2:20-21 MSG

- Share one way God's word has held you accountable to practice what you preach.
- Where are you struggling to walk the talk? What is a practical step you could take to grow in this area?

{ *Cultivate Community*: We ALL have blind spots. If you're having a hard time seeing yours, ask someone you trust if they see an opportunity for you to grow. Listen with a teachable heart!

3. Truly Seeing Others: So much of the relational conflict and social tension we experience stems from the fact that we weaponize our own goodness, failing to humble ourselves and see others as Christ sees them.

"You seem to always be looking at people by their outward appearances. If someone is confident that he belongs to Christ, he should remind himself of this: we belong to Christ no less than he does." 2 Corinthians 10:7 TPT

- Is there anyone in your life who could say to you, "we belong to Christ no less than you do"?
- What needs to change about the way you see them? Keep in mind, changing how you see others may not fix them, but it can change you.

{ *Dig Deeper*: Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. Learn how Samuel judged by appearances and almost missed a future king.

4. A New Heart: God refuses to bless fake versions of ourselves. He sees and knows the REAL us. He loves us so much that He punished Jesus as if He were the hypocrite SO THAT by faith, we can have a new heart – free from the wages of sin and death and promised a life of abundance.

- In response to what Jesus has done for you, how do you want to live?
- Have a REAL conversation with God. Tell Him where you need to practice repentance over rage or listening over legalism. Confess anything that is keeping you from living a life of integrity, honor and obedience. Ask God to show you how to become the person He sees when He looks at you.