

# Cultivate Reflection Guide

## When in Rome: Finding Power to Live Better

May 1 & 2, 2021

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at [cultivate.sc/discussion](http://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 – in the places where Christianity and culture collide.

*Kindly Note* Since many of our Cultivate groups are participating in our Spring Book Study, we'll be offering an abridged version of our Cultivate Reflection Guide for the next 6 weeks. If that includes you, we encourage you to choose at least one of these questions to reflect on personally and/or respond to during your group time.

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**Freedom in Christ:** When we live in Christ – and seek to follow His ways – we are free from condemnation and liberated from the power of sin in our lives. Read the translations of Romans 8:1-2 below and let this truth wash over your heart and mind:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” (NIV)

“Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.” (MSG)

“*So now the case is closed.* There remains no accusing voice of condemnation against those who are joined in life-union with Jesus, the Anointed One. For the “law” of the Spirit of life flowing through the anointing of Jesus has liberated us from the “law” of sin and death.” (TPT)

- Are there any low-lying black clouds in your life – any accusing voices either within you or around you – that are stealing the freedom that Christ gave His life to secure for you? What do they say? Why do you believe them?
- What would it look like for you to trust God's promise of freedom over all the other voices? Be specific, “I need to stop \_\_\_\_\_ and instead \_\_\_\_\_.”
- The truth of God's word is for you and it will not change – no matter what you have done or will do. How does that challenge you to live for Jesus? Remember...not out of guilt or fear of condemnation, but out of a desire to fully embrace the freedom He offers.
- If you believe you are free from condemnation, are you sharing that freedom with others? Is there anyone whom you are pronouncing guilty when you could instead be extending God's goodness and grace?
- Pray, asking God for the strength and power you need to believe His word SO THAT you can live it out – for yourself, for Him and toward others.

**Pause & Praise:** God has always loved us – it is not within His nature to stop. Read the verses below, then simply pause and praise God for the extravagance of His love, grace and forgiveness toward you.

“<sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins [as we deserve], nor rewarded us [with punishment] according to our wickedness. <sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear *and* worship Him [with awe-filled respect and deepest reverence]. <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:10-12 AMP