

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: The Power of Real Love

May 22 & 23, 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 – 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.

A Different Love: Many of us have been wounded by love, but when God says He loves us, it's different. God's love is like no other. It takes us as we are and then it makes us better. It transforms us and it calls us into a different kind of life – one lived more like Jesus.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.” Romans 8:28-29 NIV

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:36-29 NIV

God's love...

- **Calls us to faith.** God will not call us into the light if we are in love with the dark. As you reflect on the height and depth of God's love, how does it make you want to live? Are there any changes you need to make SO THAT you can live that way?
- **Predestines us to greatness.** If we are living for Jesus, He is writing our story. That means He knows us intimately, He sees us personally and He is with us closely. How does the way Jesus knows you make you want to know Him more?
 - Be specific. Do you want to learn, grow, understand, connect, pray, etc.?
 - What is a next step you could take to commit to that growth?
- **Blesses our life.** If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31) Jesus is praying for us with power to face our enemies, provision to meet our needs and defense against our inner critic.

That frees us to:

- stop worrying about what other people say and start believing who Jesus says we are.
- shift our focus from what we don't have to what God has given us.
- stop believing the lies in our mind and start believing the truth of God's word.

In which way do you most need freedom today? Pray and ask Jesus for the blessing you need right now and the courage to walk forward in the power and strength of His love.

- **Secures our soul.** If you know Jesus, you are safe and secure in the certainty of His love. Nothing can separate or steal that away from you. How does that give you peace and rest?