

Cultivate Reflection Guide

When in Rome: How God's Election Can Heal Racial Tension May 29 & 30, 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.

Use our Reflection Guide for personal study throughout the week, to start a REAL conversation with friends or under the direction of your Cultivate group leader. Choose the questions that challenge you to reflect and respond as you live out what we're learning on the weekends. Remember...it's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through you!

What Does Election Mean? What did you know about the doctrine of election prior to this weekend's message? How were you personally encouraged, instructed or challenged by what you heard?

The REAL battle: We don't need to fight over who's been elected; we need to fight to lead people to Jesus. Our lives – our words, actions, choices – should point others toward Jesus, not drive them away. That work begins when we follow Him first.

- Take inventory of the things you fight for – what/who you're passionate about, speak up for and stand with.
- Where is Jesus on that list?
- What do the things you fight for AND the way you fight for them say about your relationship with Jesus? Do you draw others toward Him or repel them away?
 - If you're not sure, take the bold step of asking someone how they experience Jesus through you.
- It's okay to fight for what's important to you, but Jesus should be first on that list. What would it look like for you to fight for Him first? This might be between you and Him [how you give Him your time and attention] or between you and others [what you say, what you don't and how].

REAL Unity: We cannot be right with each other unless we are first right with God. God generously met us in compassion, kindness and forgiveness when we believed in Jesus. That generosity should pour out in our lives and be reflected in the way we care for and treat others.

- Who is someone in your life who reflects God's goodness and kindness?
- How has their example encouraged or challenged you to grow spiritually, emotionally or relationally?
- As you consider your relationships with others, is there someone in your life who needs [not deserves] your wisdom, compassion, kindness or forgiveness?
 - If you've been withholding that, how do you need to first get right with God?
 - What would it look for you to extend kindness, compassion or forgiveness? Remember, even if that is not returned, your willingness to do what is right reflects your character in Christ.