

LifeGroup Study SheetJanuary 9th, 2022 - Cultural Crisis – Romans 12:1-2

This guide is designed to help in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

If you could rate today's culture compared to what it was fifty years ago, how would you rate it? How has your overall culture changed for the worse? How has media influenced the way you see the culture?

Digging In**Read Romans 12:1-2**

Our culture has a very distinct view by which reality is defined and expressed. What the world says about certain topics and issues is distinctly different than what God's Word teaches about those same issues. In this sermon series, we will define what the world says, learn what God teaches about those things in His Word, and discuss how Christians should respond!

Question 1: Read Romans 12:1a. Pastor Jeff asked the questions, "how do we live as Christians in a world of cultural crisis?" This verse starts to answer that question – offering our bodies as a living sacrifice. "See God's mercy → Be God's sacrifice. Look at His mercy so you can Live as a sacrifice."

Read Ephesians 2:4-5, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16, Luke 6:36

In what ways are you reminded of God's mercy towards you on a regular basis? How does that change your perspective in your normal day/week?

Read Romans 6:1-4

When you recognize the mercy God has shown you and continues to show you, how can you live a life of sacrifice? In what ways can you walk in "newness of life" when the world around you is chaos?

Question 2: Read Romans 12:1b. Why do we live this way as Christ-followers? Because it is our spiritual act of worship. It is pleasing to God.

Have you ever considered your occupation/job as part of your "spiritual act of worship?" What about raising your kids, pursuing a degree, or even paying your taxes? Jesus wants our entire lives to now be devoted to living in such a way that is gives God worship. Not just at church, not just through music – but through a lifestyle.

How have you willingly and thoughtfully offered your life this week to God in a sacrificial way? Through using you at work, in a relationship, in your family, etc.?

Question 3: Read Romans 12:2. How do Christ-followers not get wrapped up into a culture that is against God and against the things God's Word teaches? This verse shows up how we do not conform to the patterns of this world. The renewal of our minds.

Read Ephesians 4:22-24.

The renewal of our minds is the transformation of our "new self" created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Our inner-self and minds are being transformed to think in new and right ways as they meditate on the truths of God's Word.

How are you allowing Christ to transform the way you think? How have you allowed the culture (news outlets, social media, etc.) to dictate the way you think or process the world? Is it noticeable from your perspective?

Question 4: Reflect on these responses: How are you going to respond as a Christ-follower in our culture.

1. We can conform – (no sacrifice, no worship.)
 2. We can combat – (our culture is not the enemy).
 3. We can check out – (we are supposed to be witnesses).
 4. We can be counterculture – (engage our culture.)
- How do the negative things in our culture give you compassion for those who don't know Christ?
 - How can you use your frustration with cultural issues to glorify God and be a living sacrifice this week?
 - How can you practically live counterculturally this week to share Jesus with someone?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?