

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

2/11/18

Text: Romans 5:12-21 (ESV)

Title: A New Humanity in Christ

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim brought us back through Romans 5, as we looked at the two-sided reality of our salvation in Christ. As Paul writes multiple times in the passage, because of Adam's sin, "death reigned" in the world and in our lives. Everyone experiences that death in their own sin, brokenness, and helplessness before God. But what Jesus brings to all who would believe is a twofold reality. Not only does Jesus die on the cross, receiving the punishment our sin deserves, allowing God to forgive us; but at the very same time Jesus gives us His righteous record, so that when God looks at us he not only sees that we've been cleansed of all our sin, but he also see the perfect record of Jesus on our behalf. Where death had reigned in Adam, now life reigns in Jesus. And so we have an amazing hope that we are not only being forgiven and can never sin our way out of the Father's hands, but we are righteous and His spirit is living and moving in our hearts to change us and bring us life and fullness, and love for God.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. As Tim said, we were created in the image of God with a very specific purpose. We were made to love God and enjoy Him, and in receiving His love, we were to love others. Like the happy ending of almost any story, we were created for community.*
 - Who are the people in your life that bring you the greatest joy?**
 - How does your love for them, and the joy you find in them, reflect your relationship with God?**
- 2. Tim talked about the Chernobyl incident. That one action caused a disaster with massive effects for thousands of years. On a much larger scale, the one action of Adam, to choose his way over God's, had massive implications of death for the whole world.*
 - How have you seen one action or event create lasting consequences?**
- 3. Jesus succeeded where Adam failed. In his "Passive Obedience" Jesus willingly took God's wrath to pay for our sins and forgive us. In his "Active Obedience" Jesus lived a perfect life and created a perfect record of righteousness for us. When God looks at us, he sees his Perfect Son. 100% Forgiven AND 100% Righteous*
 - How much time do you spend thinking about your sinfulness compared to your being completely righteous and beautiful to God?**
 - How would a balance of your need for forgiveness with the reality of your righteousness help you love God and love others more fully?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your discussion.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship the LORD as our Designer and Giver of life. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for creating us in His image for love – to love Him and to love others as He has loved us.*
- 2. How have you lived at odds with God's good design, especially in your efforts to replace Him with what He's made? Confess your sin and folly to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to repair you (even re-make you).*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to bring about the death of death by His obedience. Thank Him for obeying the Father to bear your guilt, and for His fulfillment of God's original design where Adam failed!*
- 4. Who do you know that is obviously dealing with the wreckage of sin in their life? Pray for them, asking the Lord to make Himself known to them and to give them hope as He has given it to you.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of His love and goodness. Pray that the Spirit would help you see evidence of His power restoring you back to His original good design in Christ.*