



Introduction

We're continuing in a series called *Reset*. Our world is reopening, regathering, and we're adjusting to what's being called the new normal. So, we're seeing how the Bible can give us wisdom as we navigate this time together. Specifically, we're reading through Romans 12. In this third lesson, we learn that we can create a new family together.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. What does the word "family" bring up for you?

Hear God's Story

2. Read Romans 12:9-10 thoughtfully. Why is it important to God that we live this way?
3. In the sermon we learned that Romans 12:10 is an invitation to treat each other like spiritual brothers and sisters, and 12:9 is the call to really love each other and not just be fake about it. Our outsides and insides should match.
 - a. What's one thing you struggle with that hinders you from living this out?
 - b. How can we lovingly help each other overcome the bad stuff in our lives, so we can help each other mature in the faith?
 - c. What's one false narrative about "family" you need help with so you can embrace the spiritual family around you better?
4. In the sermon we learned that Romans 12:10b (the last part of that verse) is all about leading by being respectful.
 - a. Theologian and scholar Ben Witherington said this means to "go first and lead the way in showing honor to one another." What does taking the initiative in showing others honor and respect look like?
 - b. How does John 1:12 relate to the last part of Romans 12:10?
 - c. How can doing this help our spiritual lives and relationship to God?

Create a New Story

5. Identify and work on one way you can be a better spiritual sibling to others. What would this look like for you? (For inspiration, see Galatians 5:22-23.)
6. Find a way this week to show someone respect you wouldn't otherwise. What are some possible examples you can think of off the top of your head?

Further Studies: Seeing Others Through the Lens of Jesus

*"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
-Romans 15:7, ESV*

*"All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ."
-Rule of Saint Benedict, Ch. 53, V. 1 (Ancient Benedictine Monastic Guide, c. AD 516)*

In a time when it would be easy to keep divisions alive, Paul wrote to the Roman church to come together as one family. Much different than just a message about helping people pretend to be nice to each other, his "why" and "how" were rooted in Jesus' acceptance of us. Therefore, Paul's call to come together in community was a theological response to join Jesus in His larger mission. So in a sense, it was a call to get over ourselves.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul used Rom. 15:1-7 to build upon our text this week from earlier in the letter (Rom. 12:9-10). Read through Rom. 15:1-7, then move onto the questions below.

Discuss

1. Why do you think Paul felt the need to include the message of Rom. 15:1-7 in his letter?
2. How does Rom. 15:1-7 help you understand God's heart better?
3. How does Rom. 15:1-7 help you understand Rom. 12:9-10 better?
4. What's most challenging for you to pursue a unity that's rooted in Jesus' acceptance of us, rather than just a superficial kind of unity that goes through the motions?
5. What's one thing that needs to change in your spiritual life so you can better live out this message this week?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

6. For those who have young children at home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

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