

GROWTH GROUP BRIEFING NOTES

Date:

25th June 2017

Title:

Our Relationship to One Another (part 1)

Passage:

Romans 12 v3-8

Speaker:

Simeon Dry

Welcome to this week's GG Briefing Notes! Thanks for leading this discussion in your group. Do pray that God uses it to help everyone in your group become more like Jesus.

We have suggested below some things to aim for in your discussion. Please don't just read this sheet out to the group! Decide before you start how you'll work towards each aim. Which of our questions will you use (you may not need all of them) – or can you think of better ones? What kind of answers will you be hoping to get from each question?

As you ask questions, keep the aim in mind, and only give hints if you have to. Don't forget to make sure everyone in the group is involved.

1

Aim

To consider what it means that we belong to each other.

Some Possible Questions

Ask someone to read Romans 12 v1-8.

We will start by focussing on v4-5. What similarities does Paul point out in this passage between a human body and the church family?

What would have been surprising or challenging about this for the First Century church in Rome, with its mixture of Jews and Gentiles?

What does it mean that we belong to each other? What doesn't it mean? What clues are there in the passage as to what Paul has in mind?

Why is our belonging to each other a product of what God has done in the gospel? (*In Christ* we form one body.)

What difference would it make to the decisions we made about our relationships if we were more conscious of the fact that we belong to each other?

How does the gospel basis for our belonging to each other help us when we are finding our relationship with each other difficult?

Hints

The fact that other Christians belong to me doesn't mean I can tell them what to do. The image here is of a human body, where I think the different parts belong to each other in the sense that they are all part of the same body (v5), and they need each other to fulfil their different functions (v4, 6).

2

Aim

To help each other think about what our "gifts" are.

Some Possible Questions

Ask someone to read v6-8 again.

Simeon described a "gift" as "God's underserved kindness made visible". Look through the list of gifts in the passage – how is each one an example of God's undeserved kindness made visible?

Divide into twos and threes and discuss what gift(s) you each have at the moment. Remember that Simeon suggested this is not just about what you are good at, but what God's given you to do. So do consider what you're good at, but also what opportunities you have at the moment and anything God's said to you prophetically.

Hints

PS Simeon's health warnings regarding gifts were:

1. Gifts are not about my personal fulfilment;
2. Gifts are not necessarily about what I'm best at;
3. Gifts are not an excuse to avoid things I should.

