

# TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE: WE LIVE IN THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

January 25, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction.**
- **Before you read, let your imagination take you back to 55AD as you read this out loud to your group:**
  - Rome is the greatest city of the ancient world.*
  - You find yourself in the 'hood where Christianity is taking root in the poorest, most overcrowded sections of Rome.*
  - The gospel is spreading among the lower class slaves and free people as well as with the Jews and the Greeks (anyone who is well educated).*
  - You see the five house churches Paul has identified and you meet Rufus, one of the lead pastors, and you greet him with a kiss! His name is that of a Gentile slave, and as a pastor he's probably serving communion to slaves, free, poor, rich, Greeks, Roman military, and wealthy Greek females.*
  - He tells you there is ethnic tension, class tension, and sin tension in the church...sound familiar?*
  - You hear about Paul who is writing letters to the churches in Rome encouraging them that God created His family on earth to display His glory, to show the world how great our Daddy is in this broken world.*
- **Read Paul's letter to Rome...Romans 1:14-17.**
- **The gospel unifies us in Christ.**
- **Read Romans 1:14-16**
  - Who is Paul "under obligation" to? Do we live like we're "under obligation"?
  - How does this passage cover every person in that time and place?
  - When Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel", what does that say to you?
  - When you look at the past week of your life, did your life reflect that you were "ashamed" or "not ashamed" of the gospel?
  - Discuss this statement, "God unifies us and makes us transformative agents to be carriers of His love to a broken world."

## WHAT IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD?

- 1. The righteousness of God is the character of God embodied and enacted in His saving actions on your behalf.**
- **Read Romans 1:17.**
  - God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit loves people. And for 33 years Jesus Christ did what we could never do...he obeyed the Ten Commandments, He lived a perfect life so that He could become righteousness for us.
  - You don't have to do a thing...what does that mean in regards to your past, present, and future life?
  - Discuss how realizing "we are righteous" in God's eyes because Jesus is our righteousness changes the way we love God (upward), ourselves (inward), and our neighbors (outward).
- 2. Because you have faith in Christ, He gives you His righteousness and makes you a member of God's family.**
  - Jesus gives you His righteousness and incorporates you into His family.
  - Discuss this statement, "As we see ourselves in the light of God, the less impressed we become with ourselves".
  - How often do you "try to achieve instead of receive"?

**3. The righteousness of God breaks down ethnicity, class, and gender barriers. We are one in Christ.****• Read and discuss Galatians 3:24-29.**

- o Go back to our friend Rufus...no need to greet him with a kiss this time...and imagine what it was like for him to lead a church where men used to pray:
    - Greek Man – “Thank you that I’m not a barbarian, that I’m not a slave, and that I’m not a woman.”
    - Jewish Man – “Thank you that I’m not a Gentile, that I’m not a slave, and that I’m not a woman.”
    - These prayers indicated there were ethnic, class, and gender issues.
  
  - o The gospel changes this prayer...”There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
  - o What does this verse tell us about God’s family, His church, and what it should look like?
  
  - o When we put on Christ there is neither:
    - Jew nor Greek      There’s no ethnic distinction, we don’t stop being our ethnic group but our identity Christ.
    - Slave nor Free      There are no classes in Christ.
    - Male or Female      There is no gender differentiation in Christ.**We are one in Christ.**
  
  - o When we live as one in Christ, our broken and fractured world sees people living out His upward, inward, outward love...if you hurt, cry, or rejoice, we will hurt, cry, or rejoice with you.
  - o Are you living your life with those in your TC Group in a way that you are caring for one another?
  - o Does someone in your group have a need for you to be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus?
  - o What’s your next step?
- 
- **Soul-tattoo: Receive communion in the power of the Gospel as one family.**
    - o Together everyone achieves more.
    - o Teamwork makes the dream work.
    - o We are one voice in Christ.

---

**CALENDAR****Next Steps**

Class 1: Who We Are  
TC Group Connect  
Class 2: How We Live  
Class 3: Who You Are

February 15, 6pm @ TC 521  
February 17, 6:30pm @ TC 521  
March 15, 6pm @ TC 521  
April 15, 6pm @ TC 521