

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are More Than Conquerors

May 24, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Introduction**

- Celebrate and pray!
- Beginning June 13, we will birth a new multisite: Transformation Church at Lee Prison!
- Paul is writing to the multi-ethnic, multi-class, multi-generational church in Rome—a world fractured and divided.
- Suffering was a normal part of the first-century Roman world.
- It was a messed up, overcrowded world with an emperor who ruled with an iron fist—yet the church flourished.
- Today, the church is growing the fastest in places where there's suffering and persecution.
- Not only has God called us to be one in Him but to suffer in such a way that we show the world what it means to suffer well redemptively—God doesn't waste a tear or a hurt and it drives us to the one who was hurt for our healing.

- **Read Romans 8:31-39.**

- **You are more than a conqueror because: Jesus is for you.**

- **Read and discuss Romans 8:31-32.**

- The same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead (conquering sin, death, and evil) now lives in and through you! Jesus is for you and He is enough.
 - o What are "these things" Paul is referring to in this passage? (HINT: Romans 8:18-30)
 - o Your hope is in Christ. He's enough. What things/situations are trying to keep you from believing God is enough? Take time to pray for your group to walk as conquerors in the midst of these challenges.
 - o What are the "all things" God will graciously give you? (HINT: Romans 8:17)
 - o How does your future glory as a joint heir with Christ give you power to suffer well in this present time?

- **You are more than a conqueror because: You are God's elect and you are justified.**

- **Read and discuss Romans 8:33.**

- God has chosen (elected) you. This beautiful Jewish word means "to be beloved, near God's heart, a part of God's family".
 - o Israel was God's chosen.
 - o Jesus is God's chosen. (Luke 9:35)
 - o The church is God's chosen in Christ.

- Another way to say it is, "You are chosen to be part of God's people on God's mission to add to God's family."
 - o How does that statement of purpose affect the way you live life and deal with suffering?

- You are justified...Jesus paid for the penalty of your sin. God gives you Jesus' righteousness as a gift on the cross.

- o Legalism causes you to think about you.
- o Grace causes you to think about Jesus.
- o How does justification change the way you look at your sin—past, present and future?

- **Read and discuss Galatians 3:26-27.**

- God doesn't see you by your behavior, He sees you through Christ's righteousness—believe it and receive it!
 - o Discuss these statements:
 - o Justification is about Jesus's righteousness not about how good you are or try to be.
 - o When you base your life on your own righteousness you either live in despair or pride.
 - o Marinate on this: Are you still overwhelmed by Jesus?

- **You are more than a conqueror because: You are free from condemnation.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 8:34.**
- In this Scripture, Paul says:
 - o Christ died for you.
 - o Christ was raised to life for you.
 - o Christ is at the right hand of God interceding (praying) for you.
 - o How does this transform the way you live as a conqueror?

- Living with condemnation produces shame, shame produces guilt, and guilt leads you to do the same things over and over—life becomes a vicious cycle. You can't clean yourself up...only Jesus can.
 - o Why can we as Christ-followers live free from guilt (If you think you're guilty, you're going to act that way) and shame?
 - o Discuss the illustration Pastor Derwin used with the judge (God) and defense attorney (Satan).
 - o How does embracing this truth transform the way you live and the way you treat others?

- **You are more than conquerors because: Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 8:35-39.**
- The early church flourished in the Roman Empire with an emperor and a culture of suffering.
 - o What are you facing today where you can declare, "In spite of (fill in the blank) I am more than a conqueror through Him who loves me!"
 - o Discuss this statement: "The same power that raised Christ from the dead can change you in the midst of whatever you face".

- **Soul-tattoo: Face your suffering through the conquering power of Jesus.**

- **Close in prayer.**
 - o Pray for your group to allow Christ and His conquering power to live in and through them as they face suffering in their lives.