

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are Transformed To Serve

June 28, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction**
- **In light of the Supreme Court decision regarding same-sex marriage:**
 - o How do you engage culture regarding this decision?
 - o First, God defines marriage (Ephesians 5:31-33), not the Supreme Court.
 - o Second, don't talk about God's judgment on our country—what about what happened to the Native Americans, or years of slavery, or women not voting, or Jim Crow laws and segregation?
 - o Remember, economic prosperity isn't always a blessing from God. If it's not used for others, it becomes a curse or an idol, and people begin to worship prosperity.
 - o Don't allow your political ideology to drive you in your thinking. Allow Christ to be the center of your life and His love, grace, and truth to permeate your thinking. All of life is worship!
 - o When you have a "high and lofty view of God" it transforms the way you view yourself and others.
 - o God gave marriage as a symbol to represent the love of Jesus (the husband) for the Church (His bride, Christ-followers).
- o At TC, our response to the LGBTQ community is we love all people unconditionally. Unconditional love doesn't mean unconditional acceptance of a sexual behavior/ethic that the Bible deems as sin. You can love someone and not accept the way he or she lives.
- o As a temple of the Holy Spirit, you don't have to give in to sin or desires contrary to God's will. He is transforming you day by day—that's sanctification.
- o You can defend marriage by living out a beautiful, Jesus soaked, sacrificial marriages.
- o Proximity and love go hand in hand...that's how you come to faith in Jesus. Live "on-mission" with other people who are not like you so that they see God's overwhelming love and scandalous grace infecting every area of your life.
- **Read Romans 12:1-8.**
- **In order for us to be Together With One Voice –**
- **Will you let the mercy of God make you a living sacrifice?**
- **Read and discuss Romans 12:1-2.**
 - o Paul is using "Jewish Temple" language—in the temple there were sacrifices. Jesus moved the temple from a building to your life—He is wants to live in and through you.
 - o It's time to stop talking about your rights, your life, and your needs and start allowing God to transform your life.
 - o "Renewing your mind" means metamorphosis—an inside pressure transform you—like changing a caterpillar into a butterfly—you are changed from the inside out.
 - What sacrifices does God's "knife of mercy" need to kill in your life? (HINT: Fear, Anger, Pride)
 - How is God "renewing your mind" or transforming you since you've become a Christ-follower?
 - As a "living sacrifice", what preference do you put away as you pick up your cross for the greater goal?
- Discuss the following "mercies of God" as seen in Romans 1 – 11.
 - o **God's love displayed through Jesus.** He loved you before time began and will love you for all eternity.
 - o **God's forever forgiveness.** He has forgiven and forgotten your sins—past, present, and future—as far as the east is from the west.
 - o **The Spirit of the living God is in you.** The same Spirit that co-created the universe with God the Father and God the Son abides in you.
 - o **You are part of God's new family.** He has called you to be an authentic and real family for the world to see.

- **Will you let the grace of God transform you into a humble servant?**
- **Read and discuss Romans 12:3.**
- Why does God transform your mind? To be a humble servant.
- When you're in awe of Jesus you see people differently.
 - o How does living an upward, inward, outward life transform you into a humble servant?
 - o What cultural identities push against you from being a humble servant?
 - o Jesus washed His disciple's feet. What modern day "acts of service" can you do for others?
 - o How does the following statement go against cultural thinking? If you really want to be great—be a servant. How does this apply to your interaction with others at work, home, school, or neighborhood?

- Don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. The gospel is a call to humility.
 - o Discuss the following statements:
 - o Instead of fighting for your rights, ask how you can serve.
 - o Discipleship isn't only cognizant...it's being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus.

- **Will you participate in the body of Christ by using your gifts to serve in TC?**
- **Read and discuss Romans 12:4-8.**
- Human gifts are for us but God's gifts are to build up the body of Christ.
- When God gives you a gift, it's not for you...it's for others.
- Discuss the following gifts and how you can utilize your gift as part of the body here at TC:

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| Service | Serving others—Jesus qualifies those He calls. |
| Prophecy | You can communicate God's Word in a way people understand it. |
| Generosity | The gift of financial giving. |
| Leadership | Leadership is embodying who you want others to become. |
| Exhortation | Encouraging others to becoming everything God's created you to be. |
| Teach | Opportunities are available through TC Groups, Transform U, TC Kids, and TC Teens. |
| Acts of Mercy | You desire to help others. |

- We are one body with many members.
- Quit comparing yourself to others—be who God has called you to be.
- There's no second string on God's team.
- Just as your hand is attached to your body, you are attached to the body of Christ.
- We need each other to be everything we can be so that we can be a healthy body.
 - o Where do you currently serve at TC? (HINT: Teamwork makes the dream work...so get in the game!)
 - o If you're not serving, who will? What area of serving will you check out over the next few weeks?
 - o If you've been coming for years and have yet to serve—what are you waiting for?

- **Soul-tattoo: Become an owner of TC!**
 - o Sign-up for Class 1—Who We Are
 - o August 30 @ TC521

- **Close in prayer.**