

WRITE IT DOWN!

A People Connected

What in the World is the Church?

Romans 12

October 21, 2007

LISTEN UP!

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1. WHY we are to be A People Connected. . . .

1. Because of the mercies of God. (12:1)
2. Because it is an outgrowth of our offering to God. (12:1)
3. Because it is God's will for us. (12:2)
4. Because we are stuck TO and WITH one another. (12:5)
5. Because we have been gifted by God's grace for this! (12:6)

2. WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE to be A People Connected . . .

1. Love for one another.
 - Sincere (12:9)
 - Devoted (12:10)
 - Self-forgetful (12:10)
 - Hardworking (12:11)
 - Passionate (12:11)
 - Sacrificial (12:13)
 - Empathic (12:15)
 - Humble (12:16)
 - Peace-seeking (12:18)
2. Serving the Lord TOGETHER.
3. Living in the world TOGETHER.

3. HOW we move toward being A People Connected . . .

1. Meditate on the mercies. (12:2)
2. Make yourself available.
3. Let yourself be vulnerable.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read Romans 12 once more. What are some of the mercies of God mentioned in the first 11 chapters upon which this text is built? (See 1:16, 3:28, 5:1, 5:8, 6:4, 6:17-18, 6:23, 8:15, 8:26-39)
2. What are to be three marks of the sacrifice we are to offer in 12:1? What exactly is this sacrifice we're offering? And what exactly does this have to do with being A People Connected?
3. In Romans 12:2 what are we not to do and what are we encouraged to do? What does doing this thing enable? What can we say is the will of God for us in Romans 12?
4. Review again the five reasons why we're to be A PEOPLE CONNECTED. Find them in the text and make sure you see their connection to the exhortation to love beginning in v. 9.
5. What does John 13:35 say? How is our love toward one another "practice before game day" out in the world?
6. What does 1 John 4:19 say? Look at the marks of love in Romans 12. Explain how Jesus loves us in all these ways? Why must this be the only power and motivation of our love for one another?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What did you like about this text and message? What moved you? What challenged you? What didn't you understand?
2. Why is **connectedness** a step beyond **commitment**? Is it possible to be committed, but not connected? Is it possible to be connected, but not committed?
3. What does Romans 12:5 say plainly and what are the far reaching, radical implications of that? (Work that metaphor!)
4. What are some of the features of "the world's mold" that keep us from loving one another as described in Romans 12?
5. Romans 12 describes the **high ideal** and God's desire for our connectedness, yet our **reality** falls so short. What do we do with that? How do we keep striving for the ideal?
6. Why are "mercy meditation", "availability" and "vulnerability" each so necessary as we move toward connectedness and love? How is your group doing that? Are you in your group moving beyond trivia and facts to thoughts, feelings and even hurts in your sharing together? Do you feel like your group is a safe place? Do feel like it's a loving place?