



A PEOPLE IN A PLACE, WEEK 6

“LOVE AND LIBERTY”

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS

DATE: AUGUST 29, 2021

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13 AND ROMANS 15:1-7

In 1 Corinthians 8 and Romans 15 Paul addresses a problem that can easily seem obscure to us today: whether or not people should eat meat that was sacrificed to idols. Though this exact situation may not be something that we face today, Pastor Brad shows how this passage can teach us a lot about what it means to have love and grace for one another in every time, place, and situation.

We are always called to demonstrate the same love and grace that God has showed to us to our brothers and sister, no matter what disagreements and differences of opinion we may have.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Last week we were encouraged to bring what we see as menial to the Lord in order that it might be multiplied. If you did this, what abundance did you experience?
2. When was the first time you encountered the Kingdom of Heaven in the form of someone coming alongside you?
3. Do you have a best friend? What makes them your best friend?
4. What does miracle mean to you? Have you experienced a miracle?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. As you read through 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, what do you perceive to be the problem Paul is addressing? How would you describe the situation in your own words?
2. Romans 14:1 “As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions” How does this embody the kingdom of Jesus personally?
3. Romans 15:7 says “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” How does this embody the kingdom of Jesus publicly?
4. Paul describes weak people as those who are not yet fully oriented around God's grace. How does this definition help us understand the mercy of God?
5. Paul's commentary about the strong and weak is not about trying to make the weak strong. Rather, it is directed at the strong and their relation to the weak. What does this teach us about bearing with one another?

CONTINUED:

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. We live in a culture of tolerance with a hyper focus on relativity and belief that all people have their own truth. Which group that Paul writes about would be most similar to modern sensitivities? What is the issue (both today and in Paul's time) with this view?
2. Paul describes the two people groups disagreeing about dietary restrictions in the Corinthian church as having strong and weak consciences. How do we describe weak and strong consciences in our culture today? How is that similar or different to Paul's description?
3. How would our world change if our society behaved in the way Paul outlines for the Corinthians? What kinds of situations do you think would be improved by this attitude, even in the church?
4. Can you think of a time in history when people lived for the sake of others? Why did that happen?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How do you build others up? What do you bring to the table that's an encouragement to others?
2. How do you create space in your heart and in your life for people who you disagree with?
3. When was the last time you welcomed someone (either into your home or in another way) that you disagreed with? How did that go? If you haven't done that recently, what do you think that could look like?
4. Do you think Jesus agrees with everything you believe right now? How do you respond to Jesus's unconditional love of you exactly where you're at?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

5. This week Brad said "When you welcome people into your home you put their humanity first." He also taught us a new word: proslambano. It means to pull toward and alongside. In light of this, take someone out to coffee this week to listen to their story.
6. Take some time this week to research an opposing view on a subject you're passionate about. Don't do this to argue against the opposing view, but try understand a different perspective.
7. The lesson of this week's sermon/passages can be a hard for us to hear, and harder to put into practice. If you find yourself resistant to this message or confused about how to respond, spend some time in prayer this week, asking God to guide you as you seek to become more welcoming like him.

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