

in your shoes

Week 2: “What Depends on You?”

“Those people” are the worst. In most cases, we believe we can keep those people “over there,” and when they are “over there,” we can avoid dealing with them and relating to them. But what if being “over there” doesn’t actually keep us from having to relate to them?

Discussion Questions

1. This past week, has your approach to interactions with “those people” been any different because of Jesus’ call for empathy from Part 1? If so, how?
2. Gavin gave examples of relationships he has with things that don’t relate back to him (e.g., food, vehicles, a sports team). What do you have a relationship with that doesn’t relate back to you?
3. Can you remember a time when the quality of your relationships impacted the quality of your life, for better or for worse? How does the quality of our relationships impact us?
4. Read Romans 12:15–18, where Paul gives relationship advice to the Christians in Rome.
 - What do you think went through the minds of the Roman Christians when they first heard this advice?
 - What do you think Paul meant by “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you. . .”?
 - What do you think it means to “live peaceably with others”?
5. Have you ever met someone who approached a tough situation with humility rather than pride? What is the benefit of approaching difficult circumstances or individuals by asking questions rather than making statements?
6. Who could you ask Gavin’s curiosity questions? How could you benefit if you asked others one of these questions:
 - What is it like to be you?
 - What do you think it’s like to be me?
 - What is it like to be on the other side of me?

Moving Forward

We all know people who see the world differently than we do. Choosing to interact with “those people” empathetically can help us understand what it is like to be them. Responding with curiosity instead of criticism can help us live peaceably with others, “as far as it depends on us”.