

STUDY NOTES

A LETTER TO THE ROMANS *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Personhood, Purpose, and Plan” on 7/16/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 15:14-33

PERSONHOOD IN JESUS

In verse 14, Paul encourages the Romans to instruct “one another”. It takes humility to realize that the Roman church can go on without him and that they can learn from each other. However, in the next verse, Paul speaks with great boldness to instruct the Roman church. Paul wrote that he had reason to be proud, not of any personal achievement but of what Christ had accomplished through him!

When you find your identity in Christ, you’ll be more bold.

- *Sometimes boldness can be confused with being a jerk. How can boldness and being a jerk be confused?*
- *Like the Romans, let’s learn from each other. Talk to each other with this question: What do you need to learn about yourself—or remind yourself—about your identity in Christ?*
- *How does your new identity free you up from seeking approval from people?*

PURPOSE IN JESUS

If you know who you are, you’ll more likely know your purpose. As Acts reveals, Paul’s strategy was to concentrate his missionary activity on the great urban centers of his day. Paul knew who he was and what he was supposed to do because of Jesus. He was

called to preach to the Gentiles. He had accomplished that goal in the eastern Mediterranean world and from that point on intended to move to the western reaches of the empire.

If you know who you are in Christ, you will be more free to pursue your purpose in Him.

- *What can scripture teach you about your purpose?*

PLAN IN JESUS

Paul planned to visit Rome on his way to Spain. However, he ended up going to Rome in chains awaiting a hearing before Caesar. Paul’s plans weren’t God’s plans—and Paul was okay with that. He had hopes for his life, but he KNEW it was all in God’s hands.

Your true personhood and purpose are revealed when you prayers go “unanswered” and your plan doesn’t go as such.

- *Why do we tend to think that if we are doing good things (i.e., serving the poor, preaching the Gospel) then we will receive good things in return?*
- *How do “unanswered” prayers or altered plans reveal your true personhood and purpose?*
- *Talk about a time in your life that God’s will was different than your plans. How did you react to that?*
 - *What did you learn about yourself from that experience?*
 - *What did you learn about God from that experience?*