Romans

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Freed from Sin - Romans 6

1. Think about words that you use to identify yourself. What actions and postures accompany that identity? What behaviors or attitudes necessarily cannot be part of that identity?

2. Remembering that Paul was speaking in his own ancient context, what other metaphors (beside slavery) would you use instead for humans and their need to serve something?

3. We often think that church is a way of coming together in similarity, but Paul emphasizes that the family of God is actually based on and requires difference! What would it look like if we leaned into the necessity of difference?

Children of God - Romans 8

1. Does it make you more or less comfortable being adopted into God's family for a particular job? Why?

2. Where are the spaces in the world (both in human systems and in the natural world) that seem to be groaning loudly for redemption?

3. Paul says that the world waits for the children of God to be revealed—to come out in the open and stop hiding! What hides God's children? What must they do differently or set aside in order to be seen as part of God's "family business?"

Many members, many gifts - Romans 12

1. What is a gift you have that requires someone else's that you don't have? When have you experienced synergy between two people's gifts?

2. How does who you are individually reflect who you are corporately? And the reverse?

3. In what ways can the body of Christ transform "our mind?" What tools, resources, rituals, etc. are available to us to help us orient ourselves in the same direction?

Love for one another - Romans 13

1. Look at Leviticus 19. What are the different circumstances of "neighbors" that the reader is told to pay attention? How do these translate into our current context?

2. What behaviors do we engage in—"rights" that we enjoy—that could or do harm our more vulnerable neighbors?

3. How does this chapter correspond to Romans 8, where the whole creation groans for the revelation of who God's children are?