

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, April 17th 2016

The Gospel in Life | Living in the Church (Rm 12:3-8)

1. Doug opened his message with a hypothetical in which the “baby donkey” on Palm Sunday thought all the applause and cheering was for him and not Jesus. Have you ever thought so highly of yourself? What or who helped you begin to think more reasonably?
2. Paul was writing to a contentious, divided church, Jewish and Gentile - now under Christ. Have you ever been in a situation when you were supposed to get along with someone else but couldn't? What was it about that person or group that made it so difficult?
3. What is really at the heart of prejudice towards others? Fear of the unfamiliar? Pride? Or simply sin? What does Paul have to say about current race relations in our country?
4. Paul paints a picture of unity that far exceeds worldly ideals. “In Christ, we belong to each other.” What does this mean practically? How is this counter-cultural? How can we (or ought we) be intentional about living in Christian community and not just a common interests club?
5. Doug highlighted that the only thing that can separate us from Christ or each other is unbelief. How can unbelief and belief exist simultaneously? What should be our prayer (See Mk 9:24 and surrounding)?
6. Doug defined living in the Church as “serving one another with the gifts God has given you.” This is a supernatural/miraculous process of listening to where God would move us to serve. EXERCISE: Take a moment to prayerfully encourage each other with God-given gifts you see in one another. Take the person to your right or left (whomever is not your spouse) and tell them how you see a gift of God in them.