

TAKEAWAY

All for One

ONE ANOTHER – ROMANS

Sunday 27th January 2019

INTRODUCTION

In a world where we are bombarded with news stories about political divides, where social media polarises opinion and encourages people to have an 'us and them' attitude, and we all seem quick to judge the motives and actions of each other, Romans gives us a deep challenge to look beyond what separates us to what unites us. Paul implores a church that was divided over traditions and customs to learn to accept each other, live in harmony and stop judging each other. 2000 years on, the church still needs that challenge to focus on the God who accepts each of us, just as we are, and to treat each other the same way so that we can concentrate on being his representatives to our friends and family. Partnership in Maybridge is about committing to be part of big, diverse family of people, with all their different views and lifestyles just as God has committed to us and all our quirks.

READ

Romans 12:1-16

DISCUSS

1. If you were to describe yourself, what three things might you say are very important to you, or your top priorities?
2. What divides do you see in the society we live in?
3. What experience do you have of feeling judged by people – inside or outside of the church?
4. As you think about your circle of friends, how similar to you are they?
5. Ann Voskamp says, *“Comparison is a thug that robs your joy. But it's even more than that – comparison makes you a thug who beats down somebody.”*
When have you struggled with comparison – either thinking more or less yourself?
6. Do you value some spiritual gifts more than others? Does this lead you to put some people on a pedestal and others firmly on the floor?
7. Does anything or anyone stop you from wanting to become a partner at Maybridge? Might these verses help you think differently?
8. In the Message version of the bible, Romans 12:1-2 says, *“Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.*



Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of

you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

Our culture feeds off disagreement and dischord – how can we challenge each other to rise above this 'level of immaturity'?

9. Are there people you need to ask God to help you to learn to

accept (Romans 15:7)? Why not pray now for a new heart towards these people? You don't have to tell the group who they are, but why not revisit this over the next few weeks, to see how you are doing with being devoted to even those you disagree with or find difficult?

