

Getting Started

1. What conflicts have shaped the life of Ross Community Reformed Church?
2. How do you deal with conflict? Do you engage it or shy away from it?
3. Can conflict be good?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 54:

Q. What do you believe concerning "the holy catholic church"?

A. I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word,¹ out of the entire human race,² from the beginning of the world to its end,³ gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life⁴ and united in true faith.⁵ And of this community I am⁶ and always will be⁷ a living member.

¹ John 10:14-16; Acts 20:28; Rom. 10:14-17; Col. 1:18 ² Gen. 26:3b-4; Rev. 5:9 ³ Isa. 59:21; 1 Cor. 11:26 ⁴ Matt. 16:18; John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-14 ⁵ Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 4:1-6 ⁶ 1 John 3:14, 19-21 ⁷ John 10:27-28; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

There are many who claim that their church is the one true church. What is the one true church?

6. Compare Romans 12:9-21 with 1 Corinthians 12 & 13. What theme permeates these passages?
7. The Church is often characterized as the "household of God," or "family of God." See 1 Tim. 3:15, 5:1, 2. What does it mean to treat one another as brothers and sisters?
8. In Romans 12:9, Paul says to let our love be genuine. This is repeated in 2 Cor. 6:6; 1 Tim. 1:5 and 1 Peter 1:22. What he is saying is that we should authentically be ourselves and love people out of that. Do you have a hard time being authentic with others? Do you let them know the real you?

Application

9. At times it seems easier to walk away from conflict or when someone has hurt our feelings. The harder course is often dealing with the conflict and confronting someone when they have hurt us. The Church is blessed when we work through conflict and hurt feelings rather than when we walk away. Is there a conflict that you need to deal with? Has someone hurt your feelings and you need to address that?

Bible Reading Questions

April 17 – 1 Samuel 25-27 – The cultural values during the time of David were very different than our own today. How are we to understand the Bible in light of these differences?

April 18 – Psalms 17, 35, 54 & 63 – All of these Psalms are prayers for help. How might they be used in your everyday life and in the life of the Church?

April 19 – 1 Samuel 28-31, Psalm 18 – Saul knew that the Lord was not with him. Why would he go out to battle with the Philistines knowing that God would not bring him victory?

April 20 – Psalms 121, 123-125, 128-130 – What are the benefits of turning to God? Are there any drawbacks?

April 21 – 2 Samuel 1-4 – God had said David was going to be king. Saul fought against this but ultimately was overcome. What kept David from becoming king immediately after Saul and Jonathan's deaths?

April 22 – Psalms 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21 – When you read Psalm 8, read it slowly and multiple times. How does this Psalm make you feel?

April 23 – 1 Chronicles 1-2 – Why are we given the genealogy?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · April 17th, 2016

Slow Church

“Don't Walk Away”

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:14-18

- _____ **and** _____ **leads to**
_____.

- **In the face of conflict we** _____ **to** _____ **it**
out instead of _____ **away.**

Topics: Conflict, Community, Trust