

Getting Started

1. Reflect on times when Ross has acted impatiently as a congregation. What drove our impatience? What were the outcomes? What would you do differently if we were in a similar situation?
2. In what ways do we as a church enter into the sufferings of others in our church or neighborhood?
3. If Jesus is not only the person that we are to embody together in our neighborhood but also the Way in which we are to do so, then who do we understand Jesus to be?
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. **Canons of Dort V, Article 7:**

Renewal to Repentance

For, in the first place, God preserves in those saints when they fall the imperishable seed from which they have been born again, lest it perish or be dislodged. Secondly, by his Word and Spirit God certainly and effectively renews them to repentance so that they have a heartfelt and godly sorrow for the sins they have committed; seek and obtain, through faith and with a contrite heart, forgiveness in the blood of the Mediator; experience again the grace of a reconciled God; through faith adore God's mercies; and from then on more eagerly work out their own salvation with fear and trembling.

While repentance is necessary to receive God's forgiveness do others need to repent and ask forgiveness from us in order that we grant them forgiveness?

6. Read Matthew 5:7 and 7:2. What is the difference between justice and mercy?
7. In 1 Peter 1:22 we read that we are to be obedient to the truth for a sincere brotherly love. In Matthew 18:35, Jesus tells us to forgive our brother from our heart. What does brotherly love mean to those of us in Christ?
8. Another teaching on forgiveness from Jesus comes in Luke 17:1-4. What do we learn about forgiveness in these verses?

Application

9. Patience and compassion come easier to some than others. Yet they are of paramount importance in the Church. Each day we are given opportunities to be patient and to have compassion. Pray over these opportunities this week and ask for God to help you grow and serve.

Bible Reading Questions

April 24 – Psalms 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87 – Is there a common theme that runs through these Psalms? What is it?

April 25 – 1 Chronicles 3-5 – Reuben was the firstborn of Jacob (Israel), but lost his birthright. Why? Who were they given to?

April 26 – Psalms 73, 77-78 – In Psalm 78 we are implored to tell the younger generations about God, then the Psalm does just that. What are we to gain from hearing these accounts about God?

April 27 – 1 Chronicles 6 – We’ve read about these people and the cities they were given before. Why are we hearing about them again?

April 28 – Psalms 81, 88, 92-93 – Psalm 92:12-15. Does that describe your spiritual life? What can you do today to draw closer to God?

April 29 – 1 Chronicles 7-10 – We are getting a glimpse of what is yet to come. These early chapters of 1 Chronicles talk about the exile. Chapter 9 tells us why they were taken into exile; what is the reason?

April 30 – Psalms 102-104 – Psalm 102 begins with a plea: “Do not hide your face from me.” Does God really hide from us? Psalm 103 answers this question and shows us how merciful God truly is.

May 1 – 2 Samuel 5; 1 Chronicles 11-12 – Why is Jerusalem also known as the city of David?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · April 24th, 2016

Slow Church

“Impatience and Unrest”

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.
Matthew 18:21-22

- _____ is a key _____ of the slow church.
- _____ comes out of _____.
- We have to _____ our _____ can drive our _____ rather than our _____ as Christians.

Topics: Patience, compassion, forgiveness