We Belong

1.

2.

3.

SERMON-BASED STUDY

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we were reminded that how we view other people matters. Do you see them through God's eyes or through your "flesh" lenses?

2 What might cause you to see others through "flesh" lenses?

3 Why is this important for belonging in Christian community?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Romans 8:5-9, ESV* – *⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

4 Looking at the passage above, how does Paul distinguish between those who belong to Christ and those who do not?

5 How does this passage challenge us to change the way we live our lives?

6 How do you live out your obligation to live according to the Spirit?

B *Ez 36:26-27, ESV* – *²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

Titus 3:3-8, ESV – *³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.*

7 When reading verses about the work of Christ in our lives, we see that He changes us from the inside out. What insights do the following verses give regarding how inner transformation happens?

8 In what specific ways have you been changed through your life in the Spirit?

C *Rom 12:3-8, ESV* – *³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

9 This weekend, we saw that every member plays a role in the life of the church. Why was it important to Paul that each member of the church play their role (read above)?

10 How does this passage help you gain clarity regarding your role at Bay Life and as part of God's universal church?

TAKING IT HOME

As you think through the sermon and this week's study, is there anything you'd like to focus on or change in the coming week?

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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