

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Guard Your Heart

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Scripture: **Romans 12:14–16**

Series: **Following Christ Through the Chaos**

OVERVIEW

This year has brought a lot of chaos and we need a compass to navigate through things like the COVID-19 pandemic, the election, and many other personal hardships and situations. The world tells us that the compass we need is to follow our heart. However, our hearts are broken and cannot be our compass. **Jesus does not tell us to follow our heart, but to guard our heart.** In this chapter of Romans, the passage is speaking about guarding our hearts in terms of relationships. We need to guard our hearts towards our opponents, towards our friends, and towards ourselves. The world says hate your enemies, limit your friendships, and exalt yourself. But God says to guard your heart by loving your enemies, expanding your friendships, and humbling yourself.

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Matthew 5:44, 1 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 2:4, Romans 5:10, 1 Corinthians 12:26, Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:18, Colossians 3:12, James 4:6, Proverbs 11:2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As a Christian, what does it mean to guard your heart?
2. When we consider our enemies, we are called to bless and not curse them. Why does Christ call us to bless and not curse our enemies? How does this reflect our relationship with God?
3. When we consider our friendships, we are called to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. What gets in the way of rejoicing with those who rejoice?
4. Weeping with those who weep means that the pain of others becomes our pain. Why is this important for the Christian? What is a practical application of this in light of 2020?
5. How can we live in harmony with others that have different views and opinions (consider theological differences, political differences, etc.)?
6. How can you guard your heart in relation to yourself?
7. What impact can humility have on friendships and relationships?
8. How can we pursue wisdom? How did Christ set the example for us in this?