

FORGIVEN & FREE

from Romans, a letter in the Bible

Through this series we'll be working our way through the Biblical letter of Romans. We'll explore themes of forgiveness, freedom, hope and grace.

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Title: A Church Displaying God's Glory

Date: 2nd July 2023

Speaker: Goff

Site: City Centre

Bible reference: Romans ch14v1 - ch15v14

Overview

How do we glorify God as a church? By our singing & worship? By our Gospel preaching? Our care for the poor? All the above are partly true but to be precise we glorify God when we display / reflect some of the attributes of God both to God and to a watching world. When His mercy, grace, love not only impact & fill our lives but overflow to others. Church in Rome must not only know the truth of the Gospel (chapters 1-11), they are to display it to the world around them (ch 12-15). In a world where there is so much division, intolerance, anger, so many broken relationships, the church is to be radically different. There were differences in the church in Rome that threatened their effective witness.

How to handle differences on secondary, not Gospel issues

- What issues do you think we need to learn to handle well in church life?
- What is the first thing Paul tells us to do when facing differences? ch14v1
- What might that first step look like in practice?
- What is the next step in handling those differences? Ch14v4, v7, v10, v13

Keeping our priorities right when handling those differences

- According to Paul, what comes first, the issue or the person? Why?
- Would Paul have approved of people continuing to hold different views on those issues or would he prefer that they take a vote and go with the vote?
- Why is it important for each of us to listen to our conscience? See ch14v5, v22

Finding the inspiration and motivation to maintain our unity

- Paul suddenly introduces OT verses as a source of encouragement in this matter of unity (ch15v4 & 5) Why? What is the relevance? Please do read Isaiah ch11v1-10
- Why do you think God love multicultural churches & churches with diverse peoples?
- What impact will such churches have on the culture around us. See John 13v35