

Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

(Adapted from *Adult Questions for LESSONmaker*)

Sermon Series: *Romans*

Sermon Title: Are we really all THAT bad? ...Yes!

Date: Feb. 7, 2010

Passage: Romans 3:1-20

Think about it

- "People are basically good." Agree or disagree, and why?
- Do people have a hard time accepting responsibility for their actions? If so, why do you think so?
- How might babysitting a 2-year old for a couple of weeks influence someone's thinking about the sin nature?

Examine it

What is the advantage of being a Jew? (3:1-2)

With what have Jews been entrusted? (3:2)

How does failure to be true to God reflect on the character of God? (3:3-4)

When we realize our own sinfulness, what do we learn about the character of God? (3:5)

What brings out God's righteousness more clearly? (3:5)

What was Paul's response to the charge that God is unjust in judging us? (3:5)

What was Paul's human argument about the fairness of God's judgment of us? (3:5-8)

How is God's character affected by the level of our sinfulness? (3:7)

What false statement or teaching was being attributed to Paul? (3:8)

Who did Paul say deserves condemnation? (3:8)

How did Paul compare himself to others? (3:9)

How are Jews and Gentiles alike? (3:9)

Who is righteous? (3:10)

What is our natural tendency toward God? (3:11)

What is the result of turning away from God? (3:12)

What is human nature? (3:12)

How do our conversations and speech reflect our sinful nature? (3:13-14)

What are the characteristics of people who stand condemned before God? (3:13-18)

What does God's law show us about ourselves? (3:19)

What is the purpose of having God's law? (3:19-20)

What reward does a person receive for observing the Law? (3:20)

Discuss it

How can good come out of evil?

What is the problem with defining our goodness in relative terms—i.e., comparing ourselves to Adolf Hitler?

What religious activities are we tempted to rely on as the basis of our right standing before God?

How do you react when you see a Christian leader exposed for sinful activities? How is your faith affected?

In what ways do we minimize the effects of sin or of disobeying God's law?

How might the apostle Paul react to the statement, "You can't appreciate the good until you have experienced the bad"?

How can Christianity be described as "good news" when it teaches that all people are guilty before God?

What reasons would you give for describing people as either basically good or basically evil?

What might you say to a person who believes that he or she is good and not guilty of any serious sins?

How will God judge His chosen people, the Jews?

What misinformation about God's judgment have you believed at one point in your life?

Live it out

What sins in your life do you need to confess to God and repent of this week?

What step or action can you take this week to keep you from taking God's grace for granted?

Which of God's promises do you want to keep in your thoughts this week?

Pray about it *What does this study prompt you to pray about?*

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: Psalm 14; Psalm 36; Romans 3:23

Next week's passage: Romans 3:21-31