

What does God promise those who love him and live according to his purpose, and what destiny awaits them (v. 28, 29)? How cool is that????!!

Does this chapter and Rob's sermon help you deal with temptations to identify yourself with the world's standards and expectations? In what ways?

Choose a word that best expresses how this chapter affects you. Who do you know that needs the message of Romans 8?

REFLECT

"This aching world is waiting for the people explicitly identified with Christ to be, through and through, the people He intends them to be. Whether it realizes it or not. There is no other hope on earth." Rob shared this quote from Dallas Willard. Look again at Romans 8:19-21. Does this make you want to live differently? How?

RESPOND

Choose a meaningful verse from this chapter to memorize. Share your verses with each other before closing in prayer.

HIGH RESOLUTION

SECURING IDENTITY

Knowing who we are comes before resolving what we'll do. Take care of the inner you before you set out to improve the outer you.

Proverbs 4:23
Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.

Immanuel Kant
*Nothing straight can be
constructed from such
warped wood as that
which man is made of.*

Who do I say I am?

Romans 12:2
Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind. Then you will be able to test and
approve what God's will is—his good,
pleasing and perfect will.

Gordon MacDonald in
Ordering Your Private World
Are we going to order our
inner worlds so that they will
create influence on the
outer world? Or will we
neglect our private worlds
and thus permit the outer
sphere to shape us? This is a
choice we have to make
everyday of our lives.

Who does God say I am?

I am a child of God and I belong to Him.
(1 John 3:1)

I am created by God and have inherent worth. (Romans 5:6-8 and Romans 8:32)

I am a restored, redeemed, and renewed soul. (1 Corinthians 6:11, 17, 19-20)

Soren Kierkegaard
Now, with God's help, I shall become myself.

Who will I choose to be?

If I fail in these areas my life has failed...

I am a follower of Jesus.

I am the husband of Renee.

I am the father of Elijah and Hope.

I am a servant-leader of the Church.

Charles Stanley
God takes full responsibility for the life fully devoted to Him.

Joshua 24:15

But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

Psalms 119:125

I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

Mark 10:28

Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!"

Philippians 3:12

...I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Dallas Willard
Our life and how we find the world now and in the future is, almost totally, a simple result of what we have become in the depths of our being—in our spirit, will, and heart. From there we see our world and interpret reality. From there we make our choices, break forth into action, try to change our world. We live from our depths...

SECURING IDENTITY

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

Agree/Disagree: New Year's resolutions are a waste of time.

What is a distinctive characteristic of your family? What do you most value about belonging to your family?

What principle, insight, idea, or quote was meaningful to you from this week's sermon?

READ

Romans 8:1-39

What is the difference between those who are "in Christ Jesus" and those who live according to the sinful nature (v. 1- 11)?

How does someone know whether they are in Christ Jesus, according to this passage? See Romans 10:9-13 and other passages you know.

What words, positive and negative, are used throughout this passage to describe those led by the Spirit of God (i.e., children of God, v. 14)?

What experiences are to be expected by those who are in Christ Jesus (v. 11, 17, 19, 23, 25, 26, 28-30, 32, 37, 39, etc.)? Do any surprise you? Which is most meaningful to you?