



A Letter to the Christians in Rome

HELLO

We are beginning a very in-depth discovery of what a community of new churches learned about how to be The Church with very little knowledge, experience, and access to credible teaching. They were in the seat of civilization and yet isolated from the origins of their faith community. If you have been wanting a deeper dive, then here it is. Don't forget, learn with the intention to change, and respond. Let's start with something Stephen McCollum said last week which is amazing considering what his family has been through.

"Faith is not about having all the answers, it's trusting in God even when you don't have all the answers." How have you dealt with this in your life?

GROW

Russ pointed out that the Roman churches pretty much had to figure things out on their own through faith in a Lord they barely knew. That is one primary reason why he sent this letter to them and announced he would come to them soon in person. Can you imagine what it must be like for someone with extremely limited, if any, knowledge of who Jesus really is being convinced to open their heart to become a follower? Believe it or not, those people live in our town, attend our schools, deliver things to our churches, and serve us at our tables. Even if they know the bare minimum about Jesus, their life experience has been so secluded from him that there is little to nothing there. It's hard for us to believe that but they are all round us.

Read Romans 1:1-15

How do you think the Roman churches maintained a common faith without a written word like we have?

How do you think the faith community has become so splintered given that there is a written word as our guide?

Talk about how big of a role *unity* plays in the design of Jesus' church. How has unity helped us? How has disunity hurt us?

How does all our religious baggage make it challenging to see the real Jesus?

MOVE

The Bible was given to us for many reasons. One was to bring unity to a spread-out bunch of believers from different backgrounds with different expectations. Nothing has changed. If we can do one thing to grow in response to this message from scripture...

What do you think is that one thing?

How do you think a church like Maury Hills with such diverse religious baggage and backgrounds can succeed in being unified?

PRAY

Nothing will make you feel more like a community than this time. Share your joys, your burdens, your victories, your fears. This is the place to do it.