

...CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION...

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS



Date: 4/21/19

Scripture Text: Rom. 3:20-24; read also Rom. 8:15-30

Sermon Title: Falling into Glory

Catching Up

- Have each person share a “hi” and a “low” from the week or take prayer requests and spend some time praying for one another.

Growing Deep

- Pray.
- Take a few minutes to read the Scripture text above.
- Did anything stand out to you or did you sense God speaking to you in Scripture reading today or during the sermon on Sunday? What stuck out to you?
- Romans 3 presents an image of human beings that is something like a picture viewed through a **negative film** strip. Negative film is the name for a photographic film whose images colors are inverted in development. Dark becomes light, light becomes dark. The image of human beings, of human nature, in Romans 3 is a dark one. But seen in the right light, the light of Christ, the true picture of who we, as God’s image-bearers, were created to be emerges. So Paul’s words, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3), serve both an indictment of the standard from which we’ve fallen but also a proclamation of who we were made to be. **We were made for glory**, hence Rom. 8.
 - Consider your understanding of the tension or relationship between the sinfulness of human nature and destiny of human nature—that we are made not only to be **justified** (forgiven) in Christ but also **glorified** with him. Which of the two ditches do you find yourself falling into more often: (1) too high of a view of human nature (not believing the Bible’s indictment about the depth of our sinfulness), or (2) too low of a view of human value (not believing the Bible’s promise about the depth of God’s love for us and his promise to glorify us with the same kind of transfigured life revealed in the resurrection (cf. 1 Cor. 15)?



...CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION...

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS



Branching Out

- How does the Gospel that begins with justification but leads to glorification shape the way we can proclaim the **Good News** of Jesus Christ to a sinful world?
 - Consider perhaps the negative view people have of God being a judge in light of what was said in the sermon about what it means for Christ to come to “judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31), namely that judging the world in righteousness is the eradication of all those things we all hate—evil, injustice, pain, suffering, corruption, division, death, etc.
 - Do you think unbelievers would be inclined to hear an articulation of judgment in this light, that is, in the light of the Gospel!?

