



“The Discipline of Celebrating”

Romans 12:9-16

SERMON NOTES

Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:

A WORD FROM MIKE....

Last week we talked about the discipline of listening to God. I challenged everyone to make time at least several days a week to meet one-on-one with God, read the Bible, and pray. Here are some tools that might help you listen to God:

- www.oneyearbibleonline.com – Breaks the Bible up into daily readings so you can get through God's Word in a year
- www.thehighcalling.org – A host of resources, one of which is an online daily commentary that comes to your inbox and takes you through books of the Bible
- www.crosswalk.com – Many online resources, including a daily devotional
- *A Gospel Primer for Christians: Learning to See the Glories of God's Love*, by Milton Vincent (Focus Publishing, 2008) – Thirty-one readings that help you preach the gospel to yourself every day using Scripture
- *Through the Bible, through the Year*, by John Stott (Baker, 2005) – Daily readings from Genesis to Revelation that give you the big picture of God's story
- *Search the Scriptures: A Three-Year Daily Devotional Guide to the Bible*, by Alan Stibbs (InterVarsity, 2004) – Uses a question-and-answer approach to help you discover God's truth for yourself



KNOWING GOD

- a) Read Psalm 148. According to this psalm, who is commanded to celebrate? For what reasons?
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- b) A Christian author and scholar, Dallas Willard, has said, “...we dishonor God as much by fearing and avoiding

pleasure as we do by dependence upon it or living for it.”**
Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?

c) What does our need to celebrate reveal about God?



GROWING TOGETHER

a) Read Romans 12:9-13. This passage is a rather long list of commands. Which ones hit home the most for you? Which ones are pertinent to the discipline of celebration?

b) How do you see the people and culture of East Orlando crying out for times of redemptive celebration?

c) What would need to change for you to be more faithful in the practice of hospitality?

* Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives* (San Francisco: Harper, 1988), 180.

d) In Deuteronomy 14, Moses tells the Israelites to eat a portion of their produce at an annual festival. One translation of Deuteronomy 14:26 reads this way: “Use the money to buy anything you want: cattle, sheep, wine, or beer—anything that looks good to you. You and your family can then feast in the Presence of GOD, your God, and have a good time” (*The Message*). What might that annual celebration look like in our context?



SERVING OTHERS

a) Read Romans 12:14-16. Who among your friends and acquaintances should you rejoice with because of an accomplishment, honor, or milestone? What might you do to celebrate them?

b) Who among your friends and acquaintances should you mourn with today? What would that look like?
