Lesson 4

Online Bible Study “Covenant”

Lessons 1-7 “Creating”

Lesson 4: “Grace – Trusting that the faithfulness of Jesus is enough”

Letters: Romans and Galatians

Each of us is affected by the weakness of sinful desires. Our selfish desires and addictive appetites separate us from God, and thus each of us is guilty of disloyalty in our covenant relationship with God.

Readings:

Day 1: Romans 1-3 – God’s solution for the human condition

Day 2: Galatians 1:1-3:5; 5:2-12 - The sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice for salvation

Day 3: Galatians 3:6-4:7; Romans 4 – Righteousness: Abraham’s trust in God’s promise

Day 4: Romans 5-8’ Galatians 5:13-25 – Reconciliation with God; freedom in the Spirit

Day 5: Romans 9-11 – God’s faithfulness to Israel

Meditation: Galatians 3:23-29 – All are on in Christ Jesus

Questions:

Romans 14:1-15:2 – Practicing Grace

1. Many Gentile Christians in the Roman faith community, even though they were followers of Jesus Christ, had relatives and coworkers who were not. In social functions and family gatherings, these Christians came into contact with idol food, because pagan celebrations often took place in temples. At times, meat sold in the market had also been sacrificed to idols. Paul’s answer seems to be “It depends.” In your reading of Romans 14:1-15:2, what underlying principle can you glean from Paul’s advice? How does grace work hand in hand with sound judgment?
2. Even though the issues may not concern eating food sacrificed to idols or the observance of special days, what practices and opinions may become points of contention in churches today/ What are appropriate ways to engage these disputes?
3. Paul writes, “Each person must have their own convictions” (Rom. 14:5). Can this phrase be taken out of context and misused?
4. Unity is a goal and a challenge in the Christian witness to the world. What beginning steps can you take, within your own heart and your sphere of influence, to practice Christian charity and accountability without denying the diversity within the body of Christ? At its best, what does grace look like in your Christian community?