



Grab Gather Grow

Week of Sunday, Sept. 23rd

Relationship with Others: An Outward Focus

Today's Question:

Do I Thank God That I Am Not Like Others?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR TODAY:

1. How do you compare yourself to others? Do you tend to find yourself lacking in some way, or do you find you are grateful that you are not like them?
2. Who do you most often compare yourself to? Is there one particular person or group of people that draw this tendency out in you? Why is that the case?

PERSONAL APPLICATION IDEAS

1. Identify the triggers for the times you compare yourself to others. Perhaps the Facebook posts of your acquaintances leave you feeling either defeated, or somewhat self-satisfied. Perhaps a club you're involved in causes you to feel less than others in some way. Remove these triggers from your life for a period of time. What is the result?
2. The next time you find yourself thanking God that you are not like a particular person or that you are not in a particular situation, dig deeply. How pure are your feelings or thankfulness.

Scripture

(read over together the following scripture and discuss what it means for us)

Therefore, as God's choice, holy and beloved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. **Colossians 3:12**

PRAYER (pray together)

Creator of the universe, we thank you for the gift of life you've entrusted in us. Guard our hearts and attitudes that we may see as you see. Help us find security in you and free us from the need to feel superior. Let us see our place in your Kingdom and humble ourselves before our brothers and sisters. Amen.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Count the number of times you compare yourself to others today. You'll have to develop a heightened awareness, but you may find the number shocking! Think about every news story you read or watch, every Facebook post you glance at, every meeting you attend, every person you look at in the gym. What are the comparisons you make?

SERVICE

Our Change 4 Change offering for the next two weeks will be The Heart of The Brooklyns Fund. We use this fund to fund any service projects needs we have on 5th Sundays of the month which is the 30th. Any extra funds we raise through Change for change will be transferred to our Good Samaritan Fund helping out our members and friends during difficult stages of life. Plan on saving your change or making a special donation to the Heart of the Brooklyns Fund

Sunday, September 30th is a **5th Sunday** and at Brooklyn UMC we spend the day in service. Consider having your gathering join us for our 10am worship service this Sunday, stay for the fellowship and potluck and then join us as a group for a service project starting at 1pm. Your group can develop your own service project that day or join others in ongoing projects.

What could your gathering do this week that would help us not compare ourselves to others but instead live for the common good of all?

