



The Norm Series

Part 2 - "What Makes Normal"

Small Group Material

March 19th, 2017

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *When you identify the impact of the Gospel on your story, you'll begin to see your story within God's story.*

Study Verses: *Romans 3:21-24, Romans 5:18-19-23, Romans 6:19 and Luke 7:36-50*

Key Points

- *God will continue to mold and shape us until we are totally free from our rebellious ways.*
- *When you feel unworthy, you will use your behavior to prove your worth. When you feel guilty, you will use your behavior to even the scales.*
- *Justification is the foundation for forgiveness to be whole and complete.*
- *The implications of someone having a solution means there must be a problem.*
- *Everyone gets made right the same way.*
- *Redemption means that everything gets used, both the good and the bad.*
- *Justification (We are made RIGHT!) Sanctification (We become RIGHT!)*
- *You are saved by faith, not by how sanctified you are.*
- *Faith expresses itself through love.*

ENCOUNTER

- What makes you doubt Christ's forgiveness for you? When this doubt creeps in, how do you tend to react to feelings of unworthiness and guilt?
- Why is difficult for many of us to admit there is problem that we don't have a solution for? How do pride, shame and guilt influence our approach to the Gospel?
- Everyone gets made right the same way. Deep down inside, do you believe this is fair? Why or why not? What makes you answer in the way that you do?

FORMATION

- Read Romans 3:21-24 and Romans 5:18-19. What does it mean that we been justified in God's sight? How did our justification and redemption come about? If we don't understand we are justified, what drives our motives for change and transformation?
- Read Romans 6:19-23. In this passage, two types of slavery are mentioned (slave to sin and slave to righteousness). What are the major differences between the two? How is it possible that being a slave to righteousness leads to freedom and life? How does this passage speak to those who view walking with Christ as restrictive?
- Read Luke 7:36-50. What did Jesus want the Pharisees to understand through the telling of this story? How is our ability to love others tied to our understanding of God's forgiveness? What would you say to someone who thinks their story isn't important because they lead a "normal life" and they don't have "much to be forgiven of"?

EXPRESSION

- What impact has the Gospel had on your own story? How has understanding this impact influenced your ability to see your story as part of God's story?
- What aspect of the Gospel are you drawn to the most (forgiveness, reconciliation, hope, freedom, etc.)? Why does this aspect speak to you?
- What has Christ done for you? What are you going to do with what Christ has done? What would it look like to walk in the reality of what Christ has done?