



10-8-17 Sermon Discussion Guide “Game On: Positive Attitude”



Context

Our Christian Education theme for year is “Game On!” We are encouraging people to be fully engaged participants in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Throughout this year, the second Sunday of each month will be our “Game On Sundays.” We’ll explore how we play this game as Christians and what we need in order to play it well. In short, we are all players on the team. Our presence matters. This month, we talk about the importance of a positive attitude. What is it? How do we have it, and why does it matter?

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Your attitude determines your reality. Sure, there are events that happen outside of your control. However, you *can* control your attitude. Think of a time when your expectations or attitude made an event better than it could have been. Then also reflect on a time when your attitude made an event worse than it could have been. How did your attitude impact those events?

Discussing the Text – Proverbs 4:23, Romans 12:2

1. Both verses start with a command and then offer an explanation. Summarize what each verse commands, and what it each verse offers as an explanation.
2. What does it mean to guard your heart? Is the author talking about the physical organ or something else?
3. Is guarding our hearts what Paul means in Romans 12 when he says to be transformed by the renewing of your mind? If not the same, are these ideas related? How does one guard their heart while also renewing their mind?
4. Even though Romans 12:2 is a command, it’s in the passive voice: “**be** transformed...” instead of just “transform yourself.” So if we aren’t doing the transforming, who is, and what *is* our role in the process?
5. Romans 12:2 says to not conform to the pattern of this world. What is the pattern of this world? What do you think Paul means by this?

So what?

1. From what or whom should we be guarding our hearts? How do we know?
2. How have you experienced the truth that the heart is the wellspring of your life?
3. How do we determine what the pattern of this world is? How do we challenge it?
4. What does being transformed by the renewing of your mind look like? Where do you need to be transformed?
5. Is renewing our minds something we do as individuals or in a group? Does it matter?
6. What role does prayer or the Holy Spirit play in the renewing of our minds?

Prayer

Share something for which you are thankful and/or something for which you need support. Have the group ask God in prayer to invite the Holy Spirit to work in them, to reveal God’s call on their lives. Have the group pray for God to renew their minds this week, to transform them.