

SERIOUS TROUBLE: MAN NEEDS HELP

Rom 3:9-26

1.11.26

Our desperate condition as sinners before a holy God has only one solution

Four catalysts for igniting a faith reaction:

THE SOURCE OF HUMAN DIGNITY — WE WERE ALL MADE BY GOD

#1 **MARVEL** AT THE **TREASURE** MAN REPRESENTS: WE ARE CREATED IMAGE-BEAREARS

'...what can be known about God is plain...his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.' (Rom 1-2)

We all are precious | Acknowledge God as creator by cherishing, honoring, & upholding the sanctity of human life

How model and encourage others to marvel at the treasures of human life:

#1 **Cherish** who we come from - The source of our dignity – We are creations of God – His concern for & authority over us (1:19)

#2 **Honor** who we represent - The sanctity of our dignity – We are image-bearers for God – His intention for us (1:20-21a)

#3 **Confront** what we face - The assault upon our dignity – We're in a world opposed to God – Our rejection of him (1:18, 21-32)

THE DEPTHS OF HUMAN DEPRAVITY — WE ALL RAGE AGAINST GOD

#2 **RECOIL** OVER THE **HORRORS** MAN COMMITS: WE ARE CORRUPT SINNERS

...none is righteous, no, not one ...' (Rom 3:9-18)

We all have a problem | Admit your guilt before God & realize the utter futility of any claim to judicial exception

How to model and challenge others to recoil over the horrors of sin nature:

#1 **Admit** who it affects: The scope of our depravity – Sin affects everyone; we are all guilty (3:9a, 10-12)

#2 **Realize** what that means: The slavery of our depravity - Sin means enslavement; we are stuck, fast-bound (9b)

#3 **Cringe** over how bad it is: The severity of our depravity – Sin grows into extreme evils; we are all fallen (13-17)

#4 **Grieve** over how far it reaches: The span of our depravity – Sin's reach is extensive; every part of our being is affected (18)

THE FATE OF DIVINE ACCOUNTABILITY — WE ALL WILL STAND BEFORE GOD

#3 **TREMBLE OVER THE TERROR** MAN AWAITS: WE ARE CONDEMNED LAW-BREAKERS

'...the whole world...held accountable to God...' (19-20)

We all deserve punishment | Abandon all attempts to excuse your sin or escape judgment through effort or merit

How to model and help others to tremble over the terror of divine accountability:

#1 **Shudder** at what you're up against: The certainty of divine accountability – We have no excuse (19)

#2 **Abandon** what cannot help you: The enormity of divine accountability – There is no escape through effort or merit (20)

THE GIFT OF DIVINE MERCY — WE CAN ONLY BE SAVED THROUGH GOD

#4 **HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE THE SAVIOR** MAN MUST TRUST: WE CAN BE RESCUED AS BELIEVERS

'...redemption...is in Christ Jesus...' (21-26)

There is only one provision | Trust in Christ alone to save you by grace through faith in his atoning sacrifice

How to model and help others to humble themselves before the wonder of a savior who offers divine mercy:

#1 **Behold** who he is: The expression of divine mercy – Jesus is the righteousness of God made manifest (21)

#2 **Embrace** what he offers: The experience of divine mercy – Jesus' gives righteousness to those who trust him by faith (22-24a)

#3 **Believe** what he's done: The accomplishment of divine mercy – Jesus atoned for our sin by his righteousness death as the Christ (24b-26; 1:16-17)