



Part Two: Why You Can't Save Yourself // Carey Nieuwhof (May 24, 2020)

Tips for Participating in Online Discussions:

- Turn on all the lights in your room.
- Mute yourself when you're listening to others.
- Use people's names a lot to draw each other in.
- Put your camera at eye level.
- Speak a little louder than normal.

Message Recap: There's a story widely circulating in the culture. You were born good. Something happened, and your inner self was wounded. To find your true self is your life's purpose and the ultimate pathway to true happiness, satisfaction and pleasure. Any form of difficulty, commitment, push back or restriction is a threat to finding who you're meant to be and your ultimate fulfillment. Throw off all limits and rise against any oppression, and you'll find yourself. It's not a bad story, if it didn't lead to hopelessness. In this message we saw that God's grace through Jesus is a story that will lead to hope.

Bottom Line: The kingdom without the King not only can't save you, it will crush you.

Scripture: [Romans 5:1-8](#) NIV

Getting Started:

1. Share a high and/or low from this week. Or as Carey shared, what are the things that irritate or agitate you these days?
2. What, if anything, made it to your discard list so far? Why?

Jumping In:

3. Carey shared a secular salvation narrative in the message (outlined above in the message summary). What part of that story or schema do you recognize in the culture? To what extent has that story framed your worldview, either as a Christian or as someone exploring Christianity?
4. Carey quoted Warren Buffet in the message: "*Only when the tide goes out do you discover who's been swimming without shorts.*" As the tide has gone out in the last few months, is there anything in your life (or in the world) that, in your view, is swimming without shorts?

Read [Romans 5:1-8](#) NIV

5. Spend some time exploring and discussing [Romans 5:1-8](#). What verse stands out to you? Is there anything in this passage that surprises, frustrates or encourages you?
6. What does this passage say about suffering? About peace? About hope? And how does that relate to our current season of life?
7. How does this passage differ from the secular salvation story Carey referenced? Are there ways it is similar? Have you tried to find peace in any other way(s) beside "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1)? How so?
8. Which version of the story (secular or Christian) best addresses the real issues you're actually experiencing in life? Be honest and explain.
9. Have you been trying to live the gospel without the gospel? Are there any ways in which pursuing the kingdom without the King has crushed you? Can you give an example from your everyday life?
10. As you add to your "Discard-Keep/Find" list, use this week's scripture passage to filter through the things you'll discard and keep. What has kept promising and never delivered?

Moving Forward: Continue to fill out your ["New Normal" card](#), but this week use the framework of Romans 5 and the secular salvation story Carey shared in the message. As you move forward, ask which things in your life you've been using to try to save yourself. Put those things, approaches or attitudes in the discard column.

Prayer: Read the final verses (below) and pray for each other as you use this season, maybe even this year, to examine how you might reject building your own kingdom without the King. Pray that God will reveal and reset your lives.

Changing Your Mind: *"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-5 NIV)*

THIS WEEK: OUR NEW NORMAL

DISCARD

KEEP/FIND
