



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, September 29, 2024

Identity Check

Who Am I As a Citizen?

Read/Reflect

1. Read Jeremiah 29:1-7? What do you think it was like to live in “exile,” especially for a people whose identity was so rooted in the “exodus” (freedom) from Egypt?
2. Read Jeremiah 28 for the back story to Jeremiah’s sermon in chapter 29. What was easier to believe, the prophecy of Hananiah (which Jeremiah agreed with), or the Word of the Lord from Jeremiah in chapter 29. Which would you have believed?

Explore

3. When have you felt out of place, like an exile? What was it like to listen for God in that situation? What did you want to hear?
4. Verse 4 suggests that the misery of exile was God’s own choice, he carried the people into exile. How would you respond?
 - God, just get us out of this.
 - OK, I’ll just wait till it’s over.
 - Forget it, I have a better way.
 - I’ll trust God’s sovereign design.
5. What does it mean to be a “citizen” today, from the perspective of the general population around you? How does that fit with who you are called to be according to Scripture?
6. How might you seek the well-being (vs. 7 - “peace & prosperity”) of your city? What would be your motivation for doing so?

Pray

- Pray for wisdom to live intentionally for the well-being of all people in your community.
- Confess to God the times when you let your own fear, anger, and frustration get in the way of being civil with people, especially with those you disagree.
- O Lord, help me to see how I can seek your peace in the places of my life. Give me wisdom to know how to seek your peace and prosperity in places where you are not acknowledged or even welcome. By your grace, may I be a true peacemaker. I pray in the name of Jesus, who is our peace. *Amen.*