

KINGDOM LIVING

STUDIES IN ROMANS 12-16

In this third and final instalment of **Romans** studies we discover more about the wonderful lifestyle which comes from being God's adopted children and co-heirs with His Son, Jesus Christ. It's a lifestyle which will set us apart from the world around us. But in a good way!

As with any Bible study, these are best done in advance when doing them in a group context.

Romans 12:1-16

After 11 chapters about what God has done for us through Christ, Paul now wants to tell us about what we should do in response. As a result, Paul is about to start focussing on some very practical implications of the gospel.

Read Romans 12:1-2

1) What does it mean to "offer your bodies as living sacrifices?"

2) Using Romans 12:1 & Hebrews 13:15-16 try to write out a biblical definition of worship.

3) How is the above definition of worship different and/or similar to how many people use the word?

4) What are some practical steps we can take in order to "not conform any longer to the pattern to the world"? Try and be specific.

Read Romans 12:3-8

5) In verse 3, the word translated "measure" doesn't refer to an amount of faith but a standard of faith. In other words the opinion we have of ourselves must take into account that we are saved through faith in Jesus. According to v3 then, how should Christians think of themselves.

6) Why is it important to remember that "each member belongs to the other?" (v5)

Read Romans 12:9-16

7) Why do you think Paul writes about love immediately after writing about gifts? (if you have time also have a look at 1 Corinthians 13:1-2, Ephesians 4:16)

8) Of all the things listed in these verses, which do you find the most difficult to do? Why?

Thinking it over

What are some practical ideas for obeying:

Romans 12:12

Romans 12:13

Romans 12:14

Romans 12:15

Romans 12:16

ROMANS 12:17-13:14

Sometimes it's not easy to love others as well as we should. That's why Romans 13 reminds us about the importance of love, even though it's already been mentioned in the previous chapter (12:9). Before Paul gets to the topic of love though, there's something else he wants to mention....

THE REPAYMENT OF EVIL

Read Romans 12:17-21

1) How does God want us to respond to evil? What reasons are given for this?

Read Romans 13:1-7

2) What role has God given to governing authorities?

3) What should our attitude be towards governing authorities? In what way is this different to the usual Aussie attitude?

4) Why should we have this attitude?

Governing authorities have the very important and specific role of administering God's justice. That's not something we are to do as individuals. We aren't to take the law into our own hands (Rom 12:19). However, even though we're not to hand out God's wrath as individuals, there is something even more important we can hand out!

Romans 14:1-15:13

In our culture we put a lot of emphasis on our "rights." However sometimes rights can be wrong.

Read Romans 14:1-6

1) In this section Paul is concerned with "disputable matters" (v1). Try and write a definition for this term. What things in these verses support your definition?

2) What specific examples does Paul give of "disputable matters?"

3) Can you think of some "disputable matters" that are common today?

4) Paul also mentions "weak" faith here. What do people with "weak" faith think about disputable matters?

5) What do people with "strong" faith think about disputable matters?

Read Romans 14:7-15:13

6) Who are we ultimately accountable to? (14:7-9)

7) In the light of our previous answer, what should our attitude be to people who we disagree with over disputable matters? (14:10-13)

8) Does Paul have a "weak" faith or a "strong" faith? (14:14-15, 15:1) How should people like him behave over "disputable" matters. (14:19, 15:1-2)

9) What happens when we DON'T behave the way God wants? (14:15, 20-23)

10) What happens when we DO behave the way God wants? (14:17-18, 22, 15:5-7)

11) In what way is Jesus a good example for us? (15:1-4, 7-9)

Think it over

- Can you think of an example in your life, when someone has done what Paul says in this chapter? What effect has it had?

- Can you think of certain matters that are not "disputable"? How should we act about them?

- "God calls on us to be discerning but to not discriminate. To judge but not be judgmental." Do you think that's right? How do you "judge but not be judgmental?"

Romans 15:14-16:27

For a lot of people, sport is their religion. They are more interested in how their team is going than how their godliness is going. That's foolish. However there is one thing Christianity does have in common with many sports. Team work.

Read Romans 15:14-33

1) What was Paul's primary ministry goal? (15:, 15-16, 18-20)

2) How does this goal shape Paul's travel details?

3) How do Paul's words here form a fitting conclusion to his letter? (1:11-17)

Read Romans 16

4) This chapter mentions lots of different people. If you've got a bible with cross references see if you can find out anymore information about them.

5) To what extent are these people a "mixed bunch?"

6) What sorts of people does Paul NOT want involved in the ministry? Why? (16:17-19)

7) Consider the following verses. What different types of teamwork do they reflect?

15:25-29

15:30-33

16:5, 23

16:7

16:22

8) In what ways are Paul's closing remarks appropriate? (v25-27)

Think it over

- What are some of the things that can destroy teamwork amongst Christians?

- What sorts of features would characterise a person who takes "glory in Christ Jesus" (15:17)

- Can you think of any other important roles within Christian teamwork that Paul doesn't mention in this passage?

- If Paul was writing to your church, what would you like him to have said about you in his greeting?

- Are there any needs in your church that you think you could help fill? How might you go about that?

- Good on you! You've reached the end of Romans (the certificate is in the mail). Skim back over these studies. Have any specific issues or topics really impacted you? Why?