

## What makes Romans unique?

New Testament scholar James Edwards describes Romans as “the most commanding exposition of the gospel of salvation by grace through faith ever written.” (For a better understanding of Paul’s view of “grace” consider these verses from Romans ... 1:5, 3:24, 4:16, 5:2, 5:15, 5:17, 5:20, 5:21, 6:1, 6:14, 6:15, 11:5, 11:6, 12:3, 12:6, 15:15, 16:20)

Of all the letters written by the apostle Paul, this is the only one addressed to a congregation that he did not know personally. In this letter, Paul provides his most detailed summary of the gospel. How would those in your group define the word “Gospel”? I would define gospel as: the good news that God came to earth in Jesus Christ to die and be raised to new life in order to reveal that those who place their faith in Christ may experience God’s forgiveness and grace and the same new life that Christ did.

Throughout the letter, Paul wrestles with questions about the role of Jews and Gentiles in the plan of God, the relationship between grace and the Law, the resultant effects of Christ’s death and resurrection on Judaism, and even with his own identity as a Jewish Christian and as God’s apostle to the Gentiles (1:5, 13; cf. Galatians 1:16; 2:8). In his effort to grapple with these profound, thorny issues, Paul crafts a very detailed and complex argument and presents his readers with a rich description of foundational Christian theology.

### Why was Romans written?

The apostle Paul wrote this letter about A.D. 55-56 to introduce himself to the followers of Christ at Rome, who likely included new Gentile Christians as well as Jewish Christians who had returned to Rome after being expelled some years earlier. These Christians, as well as Christians in other parts of the Mediterranean world, had more than one way of understanding the good news. Jewish Christians in Rome and in Jerusalem continued to follow the Law of Moses, but Gentile Christians did not follow the Law. So, who was right? What place, if any, did the Law of Moses provide for Gentile Christians? And how did the people of Israel fit into God’s plan for sharing the good news? And how were members of the Church (those who together make up the body of Christ (12:5)) supposed to conduct themselves in society and in relation to one another?

Jewish Christianity (i.e., a Torah-abiding version of Christianity) was by no means unusual during this period; in fact, it was more than likely the norm (see e.g., Acts 15:1, 5; 21:20, 21; note also that Matthew’s Gospel was written from a distinctly Jewish-Christian perspective). Christianity may have continued indefinitely as just another sect of Judaism if Paul had not tipped the scales so decisively. Thus, Paul’s letter to the Galatia represents a major turning point in the apostle Paul’s thought. In his letter to Rome, Paul began to articulate fully his theological understanding of salvation as a gift of God that comes through having faith in what Jesus Christ has accomplished through his death and resurrection (viz., deliverance from sin) rather than by careful observance of the Mosaic Law. Paul then developed this idea further in his Letter to the Romans, which reads like “an expanded second edition” of Galatians, and it later becomes one of the most fundamental doctrines of Christianity.

It is absolutely essential that we remember Paul's view of the Law was positive. Paul regarded the Torah as authentic revelation of God indicating how human beings should live in relation to God and the world around them (Romans 7:12). But in a manner similar to Jesus, Paul was able to reduce the Torah to one central commandment: one should love one's neighbor as oneself (Leviticus 19:18, quoted in Galatians 5:14; cf. Matthew 7:12; 22:37-40).

Of course, it is not necessary that one be a Jew in order to fulfill this law of love, which Paul calls "the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Therefore, according to Paul, observing the Law is neither a prerequisite nor a guarantee of salvation. What is essential, however, in order to fulfill the law of Christ, is that an individual be led and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:1-27; Galatians 5:16-26), which is possible for every Christian as a result of being baptized in Christ. Faith leads one to accept the sign of faith, baptism, and in this way believers have been "crucified with Christ." Now, the risen Jesus lives and acts in the believer through the Holy Spirit, resulting in a life that is pleasing to God (Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 2:19, 20; 3:27; 5:24, 25).

Paul teaches in the Letter to the Romans that the good news was based in the beginning on God's promise to Israel's ancestor Abraham, whose faith made him acceptable to God (4:13 and Genesis 15:6). The Law, given later to Moses and the people of Israel, revealed how God's people were to live. Still later, God sent Jesus Christ to forgive sins and make people acceptable because of their faith, something which the Law on its own could not do (3:21-26). This did not mean the Law was useless or that the people who followed the Law (Israel) were no longer part of God's people. But, according to Paul, it is faith in Jesus Christ that provides salvation, and it is faith alone -- which is itself a gift of God -- that makes one acceptable to God.

What's the story behind the scene?

A group of believers who trusted in Jesus Christ as God's Messiah existed in Rome long before Paul planned his trip there. By A.D. 49 or 50, Jews who were not Jesus' followers and this new group of Jesus' followers were fighting so much that the Roman Emperor Claudius made them all leave Rome (see Acts 18:1-4). Among the followers of Jesus who left were a married couple, Priscilla and Aquila, who later worked with Paul as tentmakers in Corinth and Ephesus (Acts 18:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:3). Eventually, some of these followers returned to Rome, and Paul hoped to visit them on his way to bringing the good news to Spain (15:28). But before he could make this trip, Paul wanted to take to Jerusalem the money he had collected from Gentile Christians in Macedonia and Achaia to give to the church in Jerusalem (15:26-29). He hoped that the teachings he had presented in this letter also would be acceptable to the Jewish Christians there (15:30-32). The author of Acts (Luke, most likely) reports that Paul eventually got to Rome when he was taken there as a prisoner of the Roman emperor (Acts 27 and 28). The Bible does not say whether or not he ever visited or preached the good news in Spain.

# **Outline To The Book Of Romans (The Gospel According To Paul):**

Prologue (Romans 1:1-17)

## **I. The Principles Of The Gospel (Romans 1:1 through 8:39)**

- A. The Question Of Sin (1:18 through 3:20)
- B. The Question Of Salvation (3:21 through 5:21)
- C. The Question Of Sanctification (6:1 through 8:30)

## **II. The Problems Of The Gospel (Romans 9 through 11)**

- A. God's Past Dealings With Israel (9)
- B. God's Present Dealings With Israel (10)
- C. God's Promised Dealings With Israel (11)

## **III. The Practice Of The Gospel (Romans 12:1 through 16:24)**

- A. The Laws Of Christian Life (12:1 through 13:7)
  - 1. The Believer's Spiritual Life (12:1 through 13)
  - 2. The Believer's Social Life (12:14 through 21)
  - 3. The Believer's Secular Life (13: 1 through 7)
- B. The Laws Of Christian Love (13:8 through 16:24)
  - 1. Love's Moral Conscience (13:8 through 14)
  - 2. Love's Merciful Conduct (14:1 through 15:3)
  - 3. Love's Mature Convictions (15:4 through 13)
  - 4. Love's Missionary Concern (15:14 through 33)
  - 5. Love's Many Contacts (16:1 through 16)
  - 6. Love's Mighty Conquests (16:17 through 20)
  - 7. Love's Marvelous Companionships (16:21 through 24)

Epilogue (Romans 16:23-27)

As you and your group read through the book of Romans, different parts of the letter will speak to different individuals. Maybe you want to assign one of the sections listed immediately below to each group member so that he or she may report back what he or she learned from that section.

Then again, maybe certain chapters of the epistle to the Romans spoke to members of your group. Below are questions for each chapter that may help the group explore that particular chapter.

**I DON'T BELIEVE IT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE FOR YOUR GROUP TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS PROVIDED IN ONE MEETING OR EVEN ONE MONTH.**

The questions are to be use to assist in a particular discussion.

How is Romans constructed?

A simple outline of Romans is as follows:

Paul introduces himself and the good news (1:1-17)

Everyone is guilty before God (1:18 - 3:20)

How God accepts people (3:21 - 4:25)

Living the new life of faith (5:1 - 8:39)

God reaches out to the people of Israel (9:1 - 11:36)

Life in the body of Christ (12:1 - 15:13)

Paul's plans and personal greetings (15:14 - 16:27)

## ***Romans Chapter 1***

### **Paul-To The Romans, Chapter 1:1-17:**

1. Paul had not yet visited Rome and met the Christians to whom he's writing. Who do you feel led these people to Christ? What is it that gives you that impression...is there Biblical evidence?
2. Why do you think Paul is so specific about who Jesus is if he's writing to Christians?
3. What is the evidence Paul cites for Jesus to be the Son of God?
4. What do you feel Paul means by using the term "saints"? How does it differ from our use of saint, today?
5. In verse 12, Paul seems to be placing himself, though an Apostle, as an equal to the Roman believers. How does this compare to the behavior of Christian leaders, today?
6. What do you feel Paul means by the term Gentiles?
7. In verse 16, what does Paul say is required for someone to receive salvation? List some other things people have told you are "required" to be saved? Compare and discuss the two lists.
8. Why do you feel Paul said, "first for the Jew, then for the Gentile"?
9. What do you feel is meant by the phrase, "The righteous will live by faith"?

## **The Wrath Of God, Romans Chapter 1:18-32:**

1. How do you feel God's eternal power and divine nature are understood from creation?
2. What does this say about people who have never been told about God or Jesus?
3. What does it say about people who have heard, but deny His existence?
4. Paul is referring to idolatry, but, can you think of any modern applications for the same teaching?
5. Paul seems to be saying homosexuality is the result of some form of idolatry. How does this compare with what we're being told in our modern culture?
6. These words, written by Paul, are in the Bible. Do you feel the Bible is the perfect word of God, or just some ancient people's opinions? Explain!
7. In the list of wicked and evil behavior, does Paul refer to any of these "sins" as being more evil than the others?
8. Does this mean that gossip is as sinful as homosexuality or murder...equally deserving death? Explain!
9. Have you ever approved of someone gossiping? Do you feel listening to gossip is a form of approval? Explain!

## ***Romans Chapter 2***

### **The Judgment Of God, Romans Chapter 2:1-16:**

1. Do you feel Paul is writing to Christians, here? Why/why not?
2. Whenever you see a "therefore", it's good to see what it's there for. Review verses 29-32 of chapter 1 and see if you can figure out what "therefore" refers to.
3. Could Paul be suggesting we have no right to judge others on any of these things if we do or approve any of these things? Why/why not?
4. What do you feel Paul is saying, leads to repentance?
5. How do you feel our judgment of others could affect their repentance?
6. How do you feel your judgment compares to the righteous judgment of God to which Paul refers?
7. Compare verses 7-11 with chapter 1, verse 16. What do you feel is required for salvation?
8. Is obedience a prerequisite to salvation or a product of it? Look at 1:5.
9. What does 2:14-15 tell you about innocent children or remote peoples who have never heard of Jesus?

## **The Laws Of Jewish Religion, Romans Chapter 2:17-29:**

1. Why do you feel Paul speaks so strongly against his own people, Israel?
2. Recall Paul's history from the first few chapters of Acts. Discuss some things you've done wrong. Have they made you more or less tolerant of these things in others?
3. Can you think of times you were trying to teach someone else and God told you, "That's good advice...you ought to listen to that."?
4. Paul quotes, about Israel, "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." It's easy for us to look back 2,000 years and say how bad those Jews were, but what about us? Can you think of things we Christians do that may cause non-Christians to curse Jesus?
5. Is there anything you have done as a Christian that didn't reflect well on Christ?
6. How do verses 28-29 apply to Christians, today...to you?

## ***Romans Chapter 3***

### **The Faithfulness Of God, Romans Chapter 3:1-20:**

1. Why do you feel Paul refers to Jews as, they?
2. How would you feel if you were entrusted with the very words of God?
3. In verses 3-8, Paul discusses our unrighteousness bringing out God's righteousness. What do you feel he means by this? Take a white piece of paper and put it in front of something that is off-white. Now take the same white piece of paper and put it in front of something dark. Has the white paper become more white, or does it just appear that way?
4. Who do you feel, according to Paul, is righteous?
5. Try to reconcile verses 10-18 with Jesus' statement that our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees or we will not enter heaven. Explain how you feel these statements can both be the true word of God.
6. Many have suggested that the purpose of the Law is to give us a code of behavior fitting for the kingdom of God. Paul declares the real purpose of the Law in verses 19-20, what do you feel he means?

## **Righteousness By Faith, Romans Chapter 3:21-30:**

1. Describe how you feel verses 21-22 could serve to reconcile the statements that: “there is none righteous”, by Paul and ‘righteousness required to enter heaven’ by Jesus?
2. What do you feel the term “justified” means as Paul uses it? If someone is righteous, do they have to be justified?
3. The dictionary says redeem means to buy back or to free from captivity by payment of ransom. How does this apply to how we are justified?
4. Who is excluded from redemption in verses 23-24?
5. Why does Paul say Jesus redeemed us? (vs 25-26)
6. Have you ever known someone who bragged about their relationship with Christ? Have you?
7. What is it, then, that you did which qualified you for your relationship with Christ? Be careful...God is listening!

## ***Romans Chapter 4***

### **Justification By Faith, Romans Chapter 4:**

Many have taught of the Old Testament (or Jewish) economy, where our behavior, good or bad, earned us a place with God or the place without Him. Then, of the New Testament (or Christian) economy, where belief is what gives us a place with God. Paul teaches that there has only been one economy from the beginning...God’s economy. Let’s discover what that is:

1. Based on what Paul wrote in verses 1-5, do you feel Abraham received God’s promise and became the Patriarch of Judaism because of what he did or Who he believed?
2. How do you feel the quote of David applies to this issue?
3. Why is it important to understand Abraham was blessed by God before he was circumcised?
4. Paul used the phrase, “God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.” How does this apply to Abraham...to the Romans...to modern Christians...to you?
5. What circumstances have you faced, where what you could see said one thing, but faith in God said another (like Abraham and God’s promise of a child)? Did it turn out according to what you saw or what God said?
6. Why is verse 23-25 so important? What does it mean to you? Can just 5 words in the Old Testament mean so much? Do you feel it was coincidence that the Old Testament says, “he believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.”?
7. What does this say to those who reduce Christianity (or Judaism) to a set of rules to follow?

## ***Romans Chapter 5***

### **While We Were Sinners, Romans Chapter 5:1-11:**

1. What do you think “therefore” is there for?
2. How do verses 1-2 refute the popular image of a judgmental God, just waiting for us to slip up so He can slap us down? Do you have peace with God?
3. Much has been preached about verses 3-5. How do you see your sufferings and troubles?
4. How do you feel verses 6-8 reveal how much God values us?
5. What attitudes do you still hold that prevent you from accepting how important you are to God and how much He loves you? Spend some time praying about this one!
6. To try to get a handle on the depth of His love for you, consider this: You have a neighbor who is your enemy...they do things that hurt you, disrespect you, say bad things about you, etc. How much would you have to love this neighbor for you to sacrifice one of your children to get the neighbor’s friendship? That’s how much God loves each of us.

### **Adam 1 and Adam 2, Romans Chapter 5:12-21:**

1. What do you feel “therefore” is there for?
2. Paul says sin entered the world through one man (Adam), how does this compare to versions of the Garden of Eden story you’ve heard?
3. Who do you feel has been blamed for death by people you’ve heard? How does this compare with how Paul says death entered the world?
4. Paul says Adam (who was the first to sin) was the pattern of the one to come. To whom do you feel Paul was referring? Why?
5. How many acts of righteousness do you feel it takes to overcome 10 sins...1,000...10,000,000,000...all the sins of all of mankind?
6. Here are some brain twisters that this chapter does a good job of answering:
  - a. Why do people die?
  - b. Why is there so much suffering in the world?
  - c. If Adam’s sin created the situation that allowed Jesus to save us, wasn’t he serving God by sinning?

## ***Romans Chapter 6***

### **Alive In Christ, Romans Chapter 6:1-14:**

1. What do you feel it means to be baptized into His death?
2. How do these Scriptures relate to what you've been taught about baptism?
3. What do you feel Paul means by our "old self" being "crucified" with Christ?
4. Describe "dead to sin" "alive to God."
5. How does verse 14 reveal the source of our ability to live free of sin?

### **Slaves To Righteousness, Romans Chapter 6:15-22:**

1. Since we are not under law, does that mean we're free to live in lawlessness? Explain!
2. Describe what the phrase "slave to sin" means to you.
3. Describe what the phrase "slave to righteousness" means to you.
4. Paul refers to things we offered our bodies to, we are now ashamed of. What are some things you did in the past that now you are ashamed of?
5. What benefits did you think you would receive by doing those things?
6. What benefits did you receive?
7. Try to list the benefits you have and will reap from being a slave to righteousness.

### **Doctrine Of Salvation, Romans Chapter 6:23:**

1. What are wages and what do you have to do to get them?
2. What is sin? What is death? What is a gift and what do you have to do to get it? What is eternal life?
3. Who makes it possible for us to receive the gift of eternal life?
4. Is there any reason you wouldn't want to accept the gift of eternal life right now?

In this one verse, Paul sums up the entire doctrine of salvation and powerfully concludes the first 6 chapters of Romans. The above questions about this verse are a simple way to share Jesus if someone shows interest in knowing about your faith. Remember 3 things about sharing Jesus: Your motivation and life should reflect His love for them. If the Holy Spirit is in it, you won't need to convince them of anything. If they are not ready, you have not done anything wrong. Some plant, some water, but God gives the increase.

## ***Romans Chapter 7***

### **The Law Of Sin And Death, Romans Chapter 7:1-13:**

1. What do you feel Paul meant when he said the Law is only over us while we live?
2. How is it that we “died to the Law?”
3. What does Paul mean by “sinful nature?”
4. Give some examples of how a law can arouse sinful passions.
5. Do you feel Paul is saying we are no longer bound by the Law? Why/why not?
6. How does this section of Scripture compare with what you’ve been told about Christians obeying the Law (10 commandments, etc)?
7. Do you feel Paul is saying the Law brought about sin? Why/why not?
8. In your own words, say what you feel Paul believes is the purpose of the law.

### **Who Will Rescue Me, Romans Chapter 7:14-25:**

1. Compare vs 14-15 with I John 1:8 and Acts 15:5-19.
  - a. What do you feel Paul, John, James and Peter believed concerning Christians and sin?
  - b. How is this different from what you’ve been told about Christian behavior?
  - c. What do you feel Paul, John, James and Peter believed concerning salvation?
2. Was Paul admitting he couldn’t avoid sinning? Why/why not?
3. How does this compare with what you’ve heard about the Apostles?
4. Name as many Biblical leaders as you can that the Bible says did not sin.
5. If your list has more than one name on it, please share with me your Scripture reference.
6. How is it that sin can still live in someone who belongs to Jesus?
7. Explain the difference between the inner being and the members of the body?
8. Describe some situations in which your inner being and your body are at war.
9. In your own words, state who it is that saves us from this body of death and explain how He has done it.

## ***Romans Chapter 8***

### **Who Are The Sons Of God? Romans Chapter 8:1-17:**

1. In your opinion, what is “therefore” there for?
2. Does this mean that, even if Christians sin, we will not be condemned? Why/why not?
3. What do you feel Paul means in verse 5 by having our “minds set?”
4. How does this compare with 7:25?
5. Do you feel it is our mind set or our action that is the deciding factor? Explain!
6. When disappointed in yourself for sinning, is this a sign that you’re a child of God or of the devil?
7. In your own words, how does Paul’s testimony of himself and analysis of the Christian experience help us in our walk today?

### **More Than Conquerors, Romans Chapter 8:18-39:**

1. What sufferings do you feel Paul was writing about?
2. In the first few verses, is Paul suggesting salvation goes beyond mankind? Why/why not?
3. What does “redemption of our bodies” mean?
4. Describe if you’ve experienced the Spirit interceding for you with groans words cannot express.
5. What are some ways you’ve experienced God taking something bad and working it for the good?
6. Are verses 29-30 saying some people have no choice, but are predestined to salvation or condemnation?
7. Does verse 33 mean that Christians don’t need to obey civil laws?
8. What do vs 35-39 say about the belief many have that if something bad happens, God is punishing you?

## ***Romans Chapter 9***

### **God’s Choice, Romans Chapter 9:1-18:**

1. Why do you feel Paul found it necessary to start this section with the statement, “I’m not lying?”
2. What is behind Paul referring to his own race, Israel, as “they?”
3. How do you feel Paul’s discussion of the descendents of Abraham applies to Christians?
4. When Paul refers to “election”, what do you feel he means?
5. How do you feel verse 12 could encourage Christians?

## **Israel's Unbelief, Romans Chapter 9:19-33:**

1. Paul continues his discussion of God's choice in all this. Instead of looking at these verses narrowly as applying to the issue of election or predestination, try applying the actual context of the chapter to it. Based on the beginning verses in chapter 9, to whom does all this talk of creating things for destruction apply?
2. Is there any way that God could have revealed the riches of His mercy and glory, exercised His sovereign choice in all this, and still leave each of us responsible for his own decisions (free will) regarding God? Explain! In other words...Explain how man's free will and God's predestination could work together.
3. What do you feel Paul means by verses 30-32?
4. What do you think would be the fate of someone who pursued Christianity by works?
5. What are some examples you've heard of "Christian" teachings on works, rather than faith?
6. Can you think of any Christian "works" you believe must be done?
7. How do you feel you can reconcile this Scripture and the one in James that faith without works is dead?

## ***Romans Chapter 10***

### **Faith Comes by Hearing, Romans Chapter 10:**

1. What do you feel Paul means by saying Israel sought to establish their own righteousness?
2. Can you think of some modern day examples of people trying to establish their own righteousness?
3. How do you feel Christ established righteousness for all who believe?
4. Verse 11, Paul says we will never be put to shame if we trust in Jesus. How do you feel trying to perform righteous acts, like circumcision or Sabbath observance could express distrust in Jesus?
5. Is verse 13 saying it's possible for someone who asks for the Lord's healing (but not professing Christianity) can be expressing saving faith? Why/why not?
6. What are some things you hear modern Christians saying and doing that might interfere with others hearing the word of Christ?

## ***Romans Chapter 11***

### **The Remnant Of Israel, Romans Chapter 11:1-19:**

1. By now, you know the history, how Israel rejected Jesus, so, do you feel Paul is writing about people of the Jewish faith, when he refers to a “remnant?”
2. What do you feel Paul means in saying this remnant is chosen by grace?
3. What do you think it means to be hardened by God?
4. Can you think of times in Jesus’ life when He confronted “hardened” people?
5. If people were hardened by God, do you feel they are responsible for their actions? Why/why not?
6. How do you think Israel’s transgression brought salvation to the Gentiles?
7. What does the olive root represent in Paul’s example?
8. Have you ever known someone who “boasted” about their salvation? Have you boasted?

### **God’s Kindness and Israel’s Future, Romans Chapter 11:20-36:**

1. Why do you feel Paul is telling boastful Christians to be afraid?
2. Paul is talking about God’s kindness to we who were “grafted” into His family. What do you feel he means by saying, “if you continue in His kindness?”
3. If we were to live in His kindness, how would we feel about those who have not yet been grafted in? How would we feel about the branches who have been “broken” off?
4. Considering how often Paul is warning against Christian boasting, arrogance and conceit, do you feel God is trying to tell us something? What are some examples you’ve seen of this kind of behavior by Christians, or by Christians “leaders?”
5. According to Paul, Israel’s branches were “broken off” because of unbelief, claiming to have earned the gift of God by their behavior. How is Christian boasting similar? How is it different?
6. By saying, “God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable,” who is Paul writing about? What does Paul mean with the words gifts and call?
7. If, as some claim, God’s gifts and call are irrevocable to Christians, how would you reconcile this with Jesus’ parable of the talents?
8. List the differences and similarities between Christians and Jews in Romans chapter 11.

## ***Romans Chapter 12***

### **Living Sacrifices, Romans Chapter 12:1-8:**

1. What is “therefore” there for?
2. According to Paul, why should we present our bodies as living sacrifices?
3. What do you feel it means to do this?
4. When Paul says, “renewing of your mind,” what do you feel Paul means?
5. Why do you feel renewing your mind is necessary before you can know God’s will?
6. In verse 3, Paul tells us how to think of ourselves. What role does faith play in how you should think of yourself?
7. Think of Paul’s analogy of the body. What are some examples you’ve seen of one part of the “body” not doing its part? What are some examples of one part doing the job of another part? Have you ever seen one part try to say how another part should function? What is your part? Are you doing it?
8. Verses 6-8 have been described as “ministry gifts”. Why do you feel these gifts would be less desired and preached about than the other Spiritual gifts (see I Cor 12)?
9. How do you feel each of these gifts serves and builds the “body”?

### **Living Love, Romans Chapter 12:9-21:**

1. What do you feel it means to honor one another above yourselves?
2. What are some examples you’ve seen of Christians practicing hospitality? What are some ways you did it?
3. What are some examples you’ve seen of people following verse 15? What are some examples of Christians doing the opposite? Which do you find yourself doing most often?
4. How do you feel you could do what is right in the eyes of everyone?
5. Take verses 17-19 and blend them into one sentence in your words, with no contradictions.
6. What are some ways you see evil being overcome with good in the world, in your church or home group, in your family, in your actions?

## ***Romans Chapter 13***

### **Civil Behavior Of Christians, Romans Chapter 13:**

This is my least favorite chapter because it reminds me of my bad attitude toward government.

1. Do you feel Paul is speaking of all governments then and now? Why/why not?
2. In terms of the governments where you live, what do you feel it means to submit?
3. How do you feel verse 2 relates to revolution against an unjust government?
4. If rebellion against an unjust government is O.K. why do you feel Paul was telling the Roman Christians to submit to their government?
5. When China attacked their citizens in Tiananmen Square, was the government bringing punishment on wrongdoers? Explain!
6. Why should you pay taxes?
7. Compare your financial debt with Paul's instructions concerning debt.
8. Try to find a commandment that is not included in "love your neighbor as yourself."
9. What do you feel is "the armor of light" to which Paul refers?
10. Explain what you feel Paul means to "clothe yourself."

## ***Romans Chapter 14***

### **Law Of Liberty, Romans Chapter 14:1-12:**

1. In your opinion, how should we treat Christians with weak faith?
2. For a Christian, what matters do you feel Paul regards as indisputable?
3. How does Paul say we are to treat Christians who disagree with us on disputable matters?
4. Paul describes a liberty in Christian life denied by many Christians, even today. Paul uses dietary rules and the Sabbath as examples where faithful Christians can differ in their walk with God, yet remain brothers obedient to Christ. What are some examples you see as disputable in today's Christian practices?
5. Can you think of ways Christians today judge and look down on other Christians of different practices?
6. Describe some ways in which you have looked down on other Christians for their practices?

## **Law Of Love, Romans Chapter 14:13-23:**

1. In the first half of the chapter, Paul described a liberty we have in Christ that many still fail to recognize. Why do you feel Paul is telling us to restrict that liberty in verse 13?
2. Give some examples of how verse 14 defines sin.
3. How would you apply Paul's idea that *sin is in the eye of the beholder* to specific situations in your fellowship with other Christians? In your relationship with God? Drinking alcohol? Tithing? Church attendance? Attire? Cussing? Dancing?
4. Having sin be relative leaves much responsibility for sound judgment with each Christian. Will this make us more or less dependent on an active relationship with God? Explain!
5. Apply Paul's Law of Love, to not do anything that makes a Christian brother or sister stumble and question God, to the following example:

Your Christian brother or sister believes drinking an alcoholic beverage is a sin...you believe it is no sin, and can cite Biblical references proving your position, answer each question and then explain your answer:

- a. Would you try to prove that he or she was wrong by showing him the Scriptures on the matter?
  - b. Would you dismiss his or her concern as the actions of someone with weak faith?"
  - c. Would you use real wine in communion?
  - d. Would you drink a beer in front of him or her at a fellowship dinner?
  - e. Would you continue to drink in your own home when he or she is not around?
6. What do you feel Paul means by verse 23? Apply it to issues in your own life.

## **Romans Chapter 15**

### **Bearing With The Weak, Romans Chapter 15:1-13:**

1. What do you feel Paul means to bear with the failings of the weak?
2. What ways do you feel your Christian fellowship could do better at this?
3. What are some examples of how you could do this?
4. How would pleasing our neighbor build him up?
5. What are some things you can do to please your neighbor instead of pleasing yourself?
6. Based on what you've learned in Romans so far, do you feel verse 5 means a unity where everyone agrees or where everyone accepts disagreement? Explain your answer!
7. How do you feel Christ became a servant of the Jews?

## **Paul's Ministry Plans, Romans Chapter 15:14-33:**

1. We have no evidence Paul or any of the Apostles knew any of the Romans to whom he was writing. How do you feel Paul had confidence in their complete knowledge?
2. What do you feel was Paul's mission in Christ?
3. Why do you feel Paul cited the signs and miracles as a credential to the Roman Christians?
4. Who's foundation do you feel Paul would be building upon by coming to Rome? Why?
5. Can you think of anywhere the Bible says Paul went to Spain? Does this mean Paul may have had a missionary journey not mentioned in the Bible? Explain!
6. Why would Christians in Macedonia owe support to Christians in Jerusalem?
7. How does Paul's explanation of this apply to donations you make to support Christian ministers?
8. How can praying for someone be joining them in their struggle?

## ***Romans Chapter 16***

### **Greetings And Lessons, Romans Chapter 16:**

1. Where did Priscilla and Aquila go to church?
2. List the characteristics Paul felt noteworthy when describing the people the Romans were to greet.
3. How many of these characteristics do you possess?
4. Do these characteristics describe anybody with whom you worship? Any ministers you know?
5. What does Paul say about divisive and deceptive Christians? How are you supposed to treat them?
6. What do you feel it means to be wise about what is good but innocent about what is evil?
7. How would you apply this to your own life?
8. Were any deacons listed women?