lincoln berean

FALL 2026 // WEEK 6

Life Group Questions

Romans – The Gospel is_____ // October 17/18, 2026

Putting on Christ // Romans 13:1-14



In light of the passage for this week relating to governments and submitting to authorities, we wanted to make you aware of a further opportunity to help you think more deeply and biblically about the topic of politics. This RETHINK workshop is coming up in a few weeks! You can register by clicking this link (or typing it into your browser): https://www.lincolnberean.org/eventfinder/eventdetails/?id=43864.

Introduction

As we have been reminded throughout Romans, because of all that the Gospel has given us, we can gratefully love one another. This week we see how that extends to the way we view and respond to those in authority over us. It's another area where we have an opportunity to live out the Gospel in front of a watching world.

We encourage you to be mindful that others may have different political views, so listening with openness and speaking with kindness might be particularly important gifts to offer in your groups this week.

Study Questions *(to complete on your own)*

1) **Read Romans 13:1-7 and paraphrase it in your own words.**

   Read **Matthew 22:15-22** and **1 Peter 2:13-17. According to these three passages, what is the appropriate response to those who hold governing authority in the world?**

2) In **Romans 13:8-14,** Paul references some of the 10 Commandments. **Which ones are listed and why might they be significant in making his point that "love is the fulfillment of the law"?**

Discussion Questions *(with your group)*

1) Our passage this week flows from the previous chapter (Romans 12) that urged us to allow God to transform our thinking, to commit to loving others, and left us with a call to, "not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good". How can we understand Romans 13:1-7 as a natural progression of thought from chapter 12?

2) In verse 2, Paul places submission to authority on par with obedience to God. How does this inform our view of submitting to our government and its leaders?

"How does Paul's context - living in a powerful and often corrupt empire - impact the way you consider his call to submission?"

How might our view of authority figures today (in all areas of life) be different from Paul's? And how might it be similar?

3) Paul returns to the theme of love in verses 8-10 by listing several of the Ten Commandments and He says they can be summed up by God's command in Leviticus 19 to "Love your neighbor as yourself." How does loving our neighbor help us obey the commands Paul spells out in this passage?

Considering all we've talked about so far related to submitting to governing authorities and the political world, **what does it mean for you to engage in your world today according to love? If possible, share examples of situations that have been rewarding as well as challenging.**

4) Romans 13:14 calls us back to the beginning of Paul's line of thought from Romans 12:1. **What areas of life did chapters 12 and 13 give as examples to *"put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts"*?**

We understand this to mean that our actions should mirror the life of Jesus. **What does your life look like when you "put on the Lord Jesus Christ"? How often do the people who are closest to you see you acting that way?**

How might your Life Group help you actively pursue the life of love that Jesus calls us to?

Personal Spiritual Exercises

Just like physical exercises help strengthen and stretch our bodies for healthy living, these spiritual exercises are meant to move us spiritually in ways that may be new so that we might experience inner growth. Since God longs for us to experience Him with our whole selves—mind, body, spirit— we invite you to strengthen your souls with exercises that challenge and stretch you in new ways. Choose one and commit to repeating it until you gain strength in that area.

1) **Scripture Reading: to listen and soak in the Word as an experience of the words washing over you.** Read or listen to chapters 13-16 of Romans at least twice/week. As you take it in, resist the impulse to study and parse the details. The point is not to gain "head knowledge" but a stirring in the heart as the Holy Spirit brings the Word to life in you.

2) **Memorization to internalize God's Word.** A key passage for this session is ***Romans 15:4-6***. Commit to memorize it yourself and encourage others in your group to do it with you.

3) **Walk & Pray: to actively engage with the scripture passage.** Write out the memory verse above (in #2) on a card to take with you while you walk. As you walk and think on the scripture, take time to ask God, "Is there anything I need to know about my life related to these verses?"

4) **Journal Reflection: to practice remembering what God has done.** Make time in your schedule to put down in writing the feelings and thoughts that are stirring as you interact with the Word of God.

5) **Self-control Exercise: to help you come to stillness from a busy or hurried pace of life.** Set a timer for 10 minutes. Sit upright but comfortably in a chair with your palms open and upward on your lap. Focus on a word or short phrase about the character of God the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. When your thoughts wander to the things on your to-do list or other people's needs, redirect them back to the character of God. When the 10 minutes is up, close in a short prayer of gratitude.

Prayer

Praying together in a group is different than praying alone with God. It's a conversation that can help you grow closer to each other as you are in God's presence. One way to pray follows this often-used pattern in scripture – acknowledge who God is, recognize the need we have for Him, and ask to partner with Him on behalf of others. When possible, use the passage of scripture from this week's sermon as your starting point, then form a prayer that follows this pattern:

God, our Father, this week we learned that you are _____ and _____ .

As I looked into your Word, I understood how I need you to _____. Help me to be faithful to _____ in the week ahead.

Other people are on my heart, and I trust that you have put them there for a reason. I ask for your will to be accomplished in their life as they _____. Help me to know how to respond well to the needs of _____, even as my first step is in praying for them right now.

Each group engages in prayer differently. Some groups go around and allow anyone to pray that desires to do so. Other groups have several people pray or maybe 1 person closes the group in prayer. Still other groups split into smaller groups of 2-3 people, and those people pray for each other. How you choose to engage in prayer is dependent on your group and your choice to ENGAGE! **We learn to pray by praying and by listening and praying with others!**