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FALL 2026 // WEEK 8

Life Group Questions

Romans – The Gospel is_____ // October 31/November 1, 2026

Spirit-Empowered Unity // Romans 15:1-33

Introduction

The concepts we learned in Romans 14 about our freedom to serve continue into this chapter as Paul lays out our privilege to care for one another well within the body of Christ and also to reach out to those who do not yet know Christ.

Study Questions *(to complete on your own)*

1) Review the main points from **Romans 14:1-23** about the Gospel is Freedom to Serve. What were the three main motives for living out our convictions that Pastor Ryan talked about?

   What was the overriding principle Pastor Ryan made about our freedom in Christ and our love for our brothers and sisters in the faith?

2) **Romans 15** seems to be divided into two distinct sections. One about Paul's ministry and one about how they are to minister to each other.

   Romans 15:1-14: How are the Christians in Rome to minister to each other?

   Romans 15:15-33: How does Paul view his own ministry?

Discussion Questions *(with your group)*

1) Read **Romans 15:1-6**. **What is the obligation of the strong towards the weak?**

   Compare this passage with **Philippians 2:1-13. What similarities do you see?**

   What are some common, everyday examples of how this could look in your life?

2) Read **Romans 15:7-13.** Paul says we are to accept one another as Christ has accepted us. **How should this affect the way we view one another?**

Again, what are some common, everyday examples of how this could look in your life?

3) In this passage, Christ is given as the example to follow (Romans 15:3-8). **Where would we be if Christ was as selfish as we tend to be at times?**

We can tend to think that Jesus was able to live selflessly because he was God. Yet Jesus, Paul, and the rest of the writers of the New Testament call us to live our lives for others. **What does that say about God's desire for us and his ability to empower us to this kind of life through his grace?**

4) Read **Romans 15:14-21. Keeping in mind that Paul didn't plant the church in Rome, nor has he visited it yet, based on these verses, how does Paul view the Christians he is writing to in Rome?**

How did Paul view his role to the Gentiles?

5) In the last section of this passage, **Romans 15:22-33,** Paul talks about his desire to visit the Christians in Rome and his concern that he and the offering (collection) he is bringing from the Gentile Christians be accepted by the Christians in Jerusalem. Pastor Ryan talked about how Paul was gathering a collection of money that he would deliver to help those suffering in Jerusalem. This collection was a concrete way of applying the unity that the gospel calls us to. **What is the impact in our relationships and community if we forget or deny the unity that the gospel brings and 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!