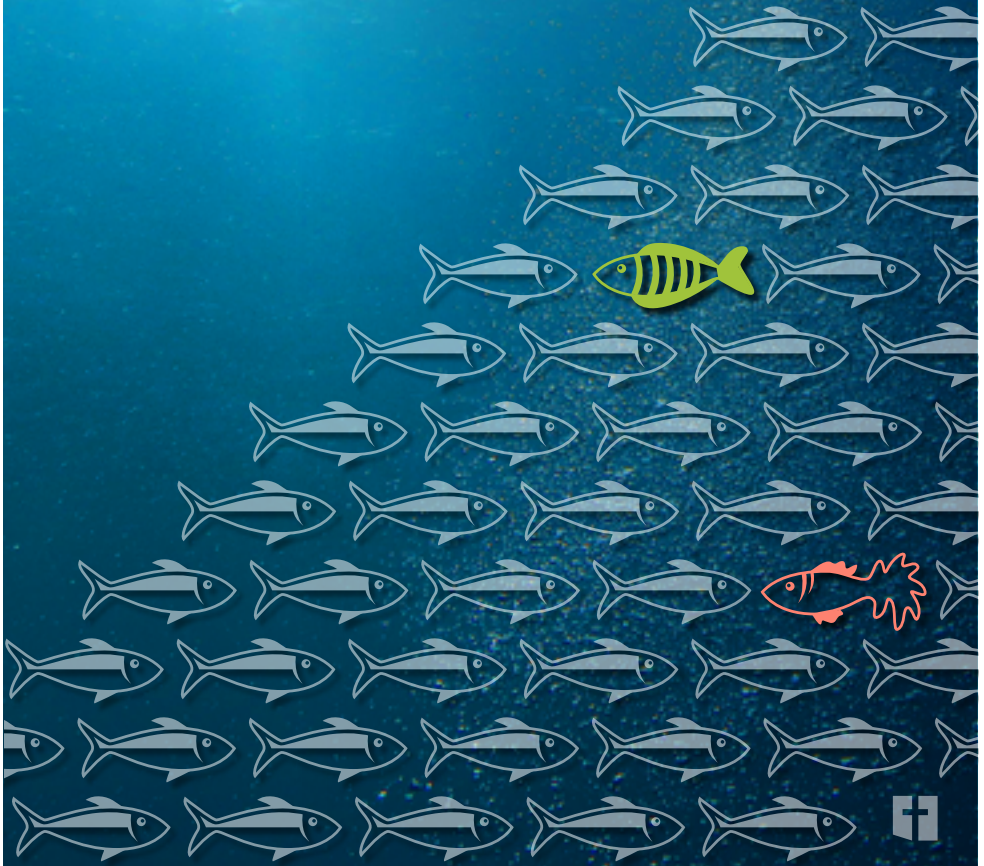


Romans 12-13

PECULIAR PEOPLE

Fall Discipleship Study Guide



Welcome

The early Christians were seen as “peculiar” for not fitting into cultural norms, and the world today still views Jesus’ followers the same way. The Church is a community with allegiance to God and God’s Kingdom. Our identity and purpose come from God, and our actions should reflect this unique calling, showing the world what it truly means to be God’s people.

This study guide is yours to go through at your own pace.

In here, you will find 7 weeks of discipleship material that correlates to our Sunday sermon series through Romans 12-13 called “Peculiar People”. Each week contains 5 days of personal study material and 1 group discussion guide, designed to empower you to dive deeper into Scripture. Our hope is that this study guide will help you gain insights into how being “peculiar” in your loyalty to God shapes not just who you are, but how you engage with the world around you. Not in a Discipleship Group yet? Contact JDamiani@GlenkirkChurch.org to get connected!

We are praying for you as you begin this 7-week journey through Romans. May you grow in faith and deepen your sense of community, embracing your identity as part of God’s “Peculiar People”!

Pastors Tim & Kate

P.S. A special thank you to our Summer Pastoral Inter Erin Braun for all her help in creating this study guide!

Devotional Reading Instructions

LECTIO DIVINA is a 5-step devotional reading of Scripture that helps us spend time with God. It is best practiced in a quiet space where you can give your full focus to what God is revealing through Scripture.

Silencio

Prepare your heart to come into God's presence: slow down, relax, and release the chaos and noise of your mind.

Lectio

Read the Scripture passage slowly out loud. When a word or phrase catches your attention, stop and attend to what God is saying to you. Don't analyze or judge. Simply listen and wait.

Meditatio

Read the Scripture a second time out loud. Listen for any invitation God is extending to you. Ponder this invitation.

Oratio

Read the selected passage for a third time. This time start talking to God as you read. Pray to God about how your reading made you feel.

Contemplatio

Remain in quietness for this last step. Contemplate on the passage you have read and what God has revealed to you. Take inventory of what you have learned and how you can apply this to your life and relationship with Jesus.

Adapted from: Adele Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2005) 168-169.

Bible Study Method Options

"The Bible is Divine Revelation. God's own word to us. It reveals who God is, who we are, and why we are here." —Adele Calhoun

The discipline of Bible study helps us to understand not only what the Bible says, but how it intersects with our own lives. As you practice Bible study over the next few weeks, try different methods to help you engage, understand, and apply Scripture in various ways.

Artist Method

As you read the selected passage, annotate! Underline, highlight and mark up your passage with symbols like lightbulbs, exclamation points, or hearts to show which parts speak to you.

Detective Method

Make a table like the one shown below, and as you read the selected passage, fill it in. Begin by making observations using the 6 investigative questions: Who? What? When? Why? Where? How? Then interpret the meaning of the text, and apply it to your life.

Observe – What does the text say? (who, what, when, why, where, how)	Interpret – What might the text mean to original audience? Raise questions and draw conclusions	Apply – What does the passage mean for me?
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Adapted from Greg Ogden, *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007) 30.

Transformation Method

As you read the selected passage, search for the call of the passage. Is there an example to follow? A promise to obey? A truth to apply? A prayer to pray? A sin to confess? A question asked of you?

Week 1

Peculiar Service

Each member of the body using their gifts to build up the community: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, and showing mercy.

Romans 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

DAY 1: Devotional Reading

Introduce yourself to Romans 12:6-8 by utilizing the *Devotional Reading Instructions* on page 2. Use the space below for notes or prayers.

DAY 2: Study

Dive deep into Romans 12:6-8 today through your chosen *Bible Study Method* from page 3. Feel free to mark up the passage on the previous page, and use the space below to write down any insights or questions that arise from your study.

DAY 3: Ponder

Slow down and contemplate Romans 12:6-8. Pondering God's Word can be done in a multitude of ways. Choose a method that helps you connect with God through this passage.

Today I will ponder this passage by...

- a. Singing the passage
- b. Memorizing the passage
- c. Re-writing it in my own words
- d. Listening to it while going about my day
- e. Other:

Pondering God's Word has led me to...

- a. Prayer
- b. Gratitude:
- c. Action:
- d. Service:

Notes/Insights/Prayers

DAY 4: Going Deeper

Read

“God’s grace-gifts... are not worked for, cannot be created by us, and could never be bought or sold or acquired in any way by human effort. They simply are there. Given... They are an immense power inherently there, waiting to be used and exercised for the benefits of the whole Body of Christ. Since we are members of one another, we are called to a great responsibility in that having.

[These gifts] come from, and reveal, God’s grace, God’s unlimited and underserved love. The noun is plural, which seems to suggest... that individuals probably have more than one. We err gravely when we limit the grace-gifts... Nowhere in the Scriptures is there an injunction to find one specific gift that is our particular manifestation of God’s power and character. Rather, the Biblical texts indicate that we each have unique combinations of gifts, very much in the plural... and our gifts are different according to times and circumstances and personalities and tasks. Therefore we begin to understand grace-gifts by refusing to limit how God wants to manifest his magnificent love.” —Marva Dawn, *Truly the Community* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1992), 93.

Explore

What combination of spiritual giftings has God equipped you with in this season? Take a spiritual gifts assessment like this one: giftstest.com/test. My Spiritual Gifts:

DAY 5: Reflect

Begin by reading Romans 12:1-8. Considering your study this week, reflect upon the following questions:

What does Romans 12:4-5 teach us about the church and about how people serve together?

Which of your spiritual gifts stand out from yesterday's assessment? Why? Do any surprise you?

What spiritual gifts have others seen in you?

How can you root your gifts in the truth of God's grace – that these are not your own? How might your service be different because of this truth?

Week 1 DGroup Guide

Intro

What impacted you from your personal study this week?

Discussion

Take time to share about your spiritual gifts assessments.

Digging Deeper

Read Romans 12:6-8 aloud. How does this passage challenge or comfort you?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 aloud. How do you understand the role of spiritual gifts in the church?

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 aloud. How does knowing that your service glorifies God impact your motivation?

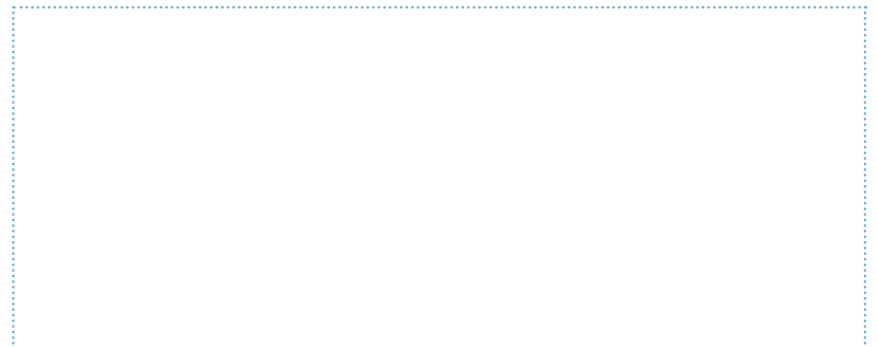
Putting it to Work

What are some practical ways you can use your gifts to serve others this week?

What specific steps will you take to ensure your service reflects your love for and commitment to God?

Decide as a group where you will serve during week 4. See page 22 for more info.

Prayer



Week 2

Peculiar Love

Loving each other within the community through sincerity, goodness, passion, prayer, and generous hospitality.

Romans 12:9-13

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

DAY 1: Devotional Reading

Introduce yourself to Romans 12:9-13 by utilizing the *Devotional Reading Instructions* on page 2. Use the space below for notes or prayers.

DAY 2: Study

Dive deep into Romans 12:9-13 today through your chosen *Bible Study Method* from page 3. Feel free to mark up the passage on the previous page, and use the space below to write down any insights or questions that arise from your study.

DAY 3: Ponder

Slow down and contemplate Romans 12:9-13. Choose a method that helps you connect with God through this passage.

Today I will ponder this passage by...

- a. Singing the passage
- b. Memorizing the passage
- c. Re-writing it in my own words
- d. Listening to it while going about my day
- e. Other:

Take My Life and Let it Be

by Francis Ridley Havergal

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise,
Let them flow in endless praise.
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
Swift and beautiful for thee.
Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
Filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
Every power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
It shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
Ever, only, all for thee.

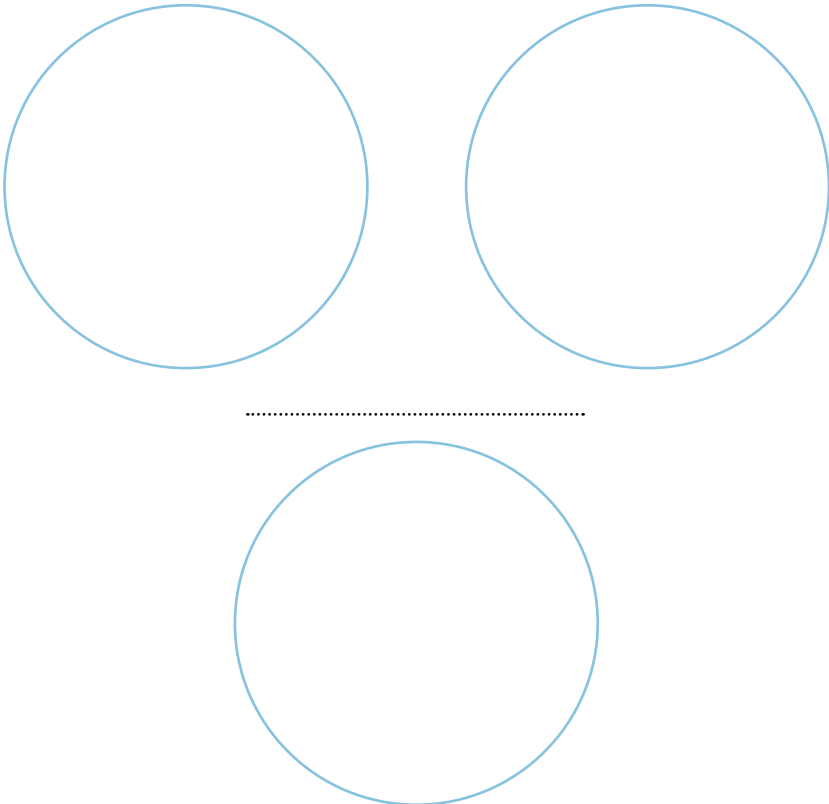
DAY 4: Going Deeper

In Romans 12:9-13 Paul provides a few characteristics of sincere love. These are not meant to be legalistic rules, but rather expressions of Christ-like character that each person can live out in their own unique way.

Out of the markers of sincere love mentioned in Romans 12:9-13 (sincerity, goodness, devotion, honor, spiritually fervent, joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer, and hospitality), choose 3 that you feel God has graciously gifted you with, ones you wish to grow in, or a combination of the two. Write these above each circle, and inside the circle write a few ways you can practice these.

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DAY 5: Reflect

Begin by reading Romans 12:9-13. Considering your study this week, reflect upon the following questions:

How might you cling to what is good?

How is love communicated through hospitality?

- Prayer?

- Patience?

- Joy?

Are there times in your life when you limit your love towards certain individuals? In what situations do you find yourself doing so, and what might be the underlying reasons?

Week 2 DGroup Guide

Intro

What impacted you from your personal study this week?

Discussion

Romans 12:12 encourages joy in hope, patience in affliction, and faithfulness in prayer. How do these three qualities work together to sustain you during difficult times? Which of these areas do you feel God is calling you to grow in?

Digging Deeper

Read 1 Cor 13:4-7. How does Paul characterize love in this passage? How does this expand our understanding of Romans 12:9-13?

Read Matthew 5:43-48. How does this call to love extend beyond your immediate community?

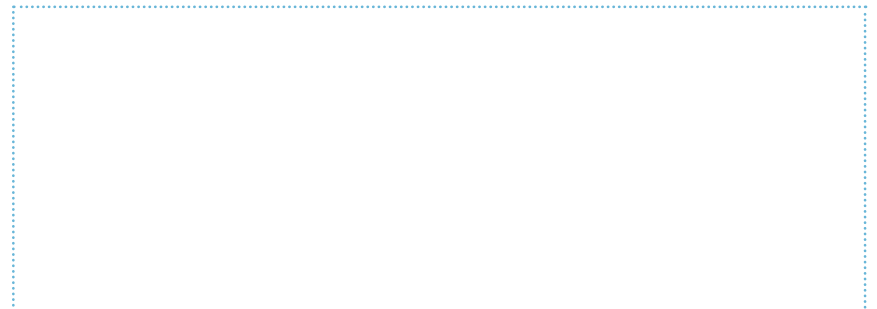
Putting it to Work

How does Paul's call for sincere love in Romans 12 challenge the way you currently interact with others? In what ways can you practice sincere love in your daily relationships?

How can we set aside more time for prayer in our daily lives?

If you have not already, decide as a group where you will serve during week 4. See page 22 for more info.

Prayer



Week 3

Peculiar Enemies

Loving people who oppose us and who wish us evil, trusting them to God, and doing our part to reconcile broken relationships.

Romans 12:14-21

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

DAY 1: Devotional Reading

Introduce yourself to Romans 12:14-21 by utilizing the *Devotional Reading Instructions* on page 2. Use the space below for notes or prayers.

DAY 2: Study

Dive deep into Romans 12:14-21 today through your chosen *Bible Study Method* from page 3. Feel free to mark up the passage on the previous page, and use the space below to write down any insights or questions that arise from your study.

DAY 3: Ponder

Slow down and contemplate Romans 12:14-21.

Today I will ponder this passage by...

- a. Singing the passage
- b. Memorizing the passage
- c. Re-writing it in my own words
- d. Listening to it while going about my day
- e. Other:

Peace Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console,

To be understood as to understand,

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

DAY 4: Going Deeper

Needs Mending Inventory

Romans 12:14-21 encourages us to bless those who harm us, live in harmony, and overcome evil with good. We can only do this, through the grace of God, by bringing our wounds before God and seeking healing. One approach is to create a Needs Mending Inventory.

Find a quiet space and take deep breaths, inviting God into this practice. Reflect on your heart's wounds from relationships or experiences and list them below. Examine each wound, one by one, asking God what you need to learn and release control as you trust Jesus for healing.

Adapted from Adele Calhoun, Spiritual Disciplines Handbook (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2005), 229.

DAY 5: Reflect

Read Romans 12:14-21. Considering your study this week, answer the following questions:

Reflect on your Needs Mending Inventory. Which of these relationships do you need to take action to mend?

As you consider those relationships, reflect on whether any of your actions might have contributed to the situation or caused offense.

To whom might you owe an apology because you have repaid them evil for evil?

What are practical ways you can love those who oppose you, instead of cursing or gossiping about them?

Week 3 DGroup Guide

Intro

What impacted you from your personal study this week?

Discussion

Read Romans 12:14-21 aloud. What do you find comforting or challenging in this passage?

Digging Deeper

Read Philippians 2:1-8. How does the mindset of Christ differ from the mindset of the world?

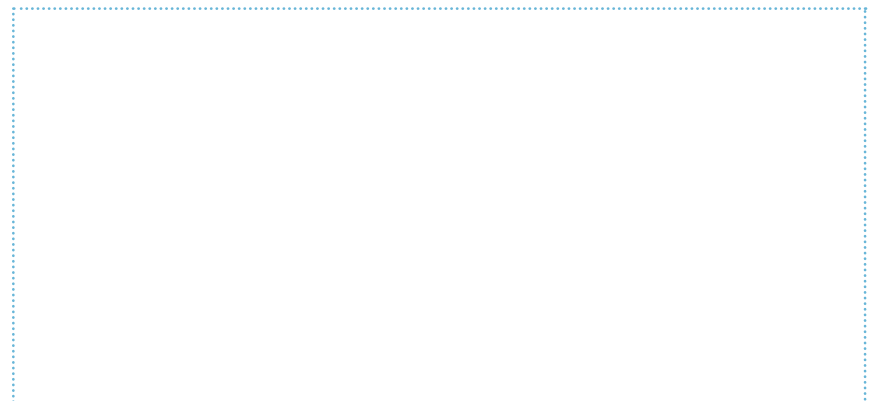
Read Matthew 5:43-48. How does this command challenge our natural instincts, and what practical steps can we take to cultivate a heart that genuinely loves and prays for those who oppose us?

Putting it to Work

What do we do when justice doesn't prevail? How can we learn to wait on God and give up our own feelings of revenge?

Reconciliation and forgiveness don't always mean intimacy. How can reconciliation take place in relationships where physical proximity is not possible or advisable?

Prayer



Week 4

Mission Sunday Service Opportunities

This week DGroups are encouraged to pause their regular meetings and dedicate time to serving together. Find a service opportunity that aligns with your group's interests and availability. Two possible service opportunities are available here at Glenkirk:

1. **Glenkirk Halloween Festival:** October 30, Wednesday; Dinner at 5:30pm & Festival at 6pm. Register to volunteer at GlenkirkChurch.org/Halloween by October 27, 2024.
2. **Shepherd's Pantry Food Packing Event:** November 2, Saturday; 9am - 12pm in Glenkirk's Event Center. No registration required.

Prayer Guide

Our discipleship this week is focused on praying for our mission partners.

DAY 1: Pray for Local Missions

- **Neighborhood Homework House** serves low-income families of Azusa and helps students thrive academically and socially.
- **Shepherd's Pantry** is a local faith-based food bank.
- **Young Life Capernaum** creates spaces of belonging for teens and young adults with disabilities.
- **La Casa Church** is a church-plant housed within Glenkirk that ministers to the Spanish speaking community in our area.

DAY 2: Pray for Global Missions

- **Three Angels** serves orphans and at-risk families in Haiti.
- **GTi Hope** trains and equips indigenous leaders in South Asia through literacy programs and village development.
- **For His Children** provides care to children in Ecuador who have experienced abandonment, abuse, or neglect.
- **Pars Theological Centre** equips a new generation of leaders in the Iranian church.

DAY 3: Pray for Missionaries

Bryant and Anne Wilhelmsen work with refugees in Germany, ministering care, comfort, and sharing the love of Jesus.

Juli Boit works with Living Room International and offers holistic medical education and care in Kenya.

Kate Clark works with Campus 2 Campus to plant student-focused ministries and churches in Asia.

IFES Missionary (name redacted for safety) leads outreach ministries to university students in Turkey.

DAY 4: Pray for Global Missions

- **African Enterprise** seeks to evangelize the cities of Africa through word and deed in partnership with the Church.
- **Ethnos Asia** ministers in access-restricted nations in Asia.
- **ZOE International** seeks to end human trafficking in the name of Jesus.

Day 5: Pray for Our Congregation

Pray that the Holy Spirit would stir in the hearts of our congregation a spirit of service and love for missions.

Week 5

Peculiar Citizens

Living in godly submission to governing authorities, trusting that God is using them to fulfill God's purposes.

Romans 13:1-4

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

DAY 1: Devotional Reading

Introduce yourself to Romans 13:1-4 by utilizing the *Devotional Reading Instructions* on page 2. Use the space below for notes or prayers.

DAY 2: Study

Dive deep into Romans 13:1-4 today through your chosen *Bible Study Method* from page 3. Feel free to mark up the passage on the previous page, and use the space below.

DAY 3: Ponder

Slow down and contemplate Romans 13:1-4.

Today I will ponder this passage by...

- a. Singing the passage
- b. Memorizing the passage
- c. Re-writing it in my own words
- d. Listening to it while going about my day
- e. Other:

Prayer for Election Day

If we are pleased with the results of today's election, let us yet in humility remember that every earthly authority must one day give way to your eternal rule—

So let us in grace
Love all our neighbors well.

Or, if we are disappointed, let us resist all fear, anger, accusation, and bitterness, but instead renew our trust in you—

And let us in grace
Love all our neighbors well.

Whatever the outcome of this election, let our citizenship and our hope be rooted first in your heavenly kingdom, that we might live in exile here as winsome ambassadors of our soon-returned-King—

Always in grace
Loving all our neighbors well.

Adapted from Douglas McKelvey, Every Moment Holy: Volume III (Nashville: Rabbit Room Press, 2023), 364.

DAY 4: Going Deeper

Read

Romans 13 has sparked much conversation over the centuries on how Christians should relate to earthly governments. It offers both comfort and challenge for believers as we navigate our relationship with authority.

First, this passage reminds us that God is ultimately in control. Even earthly rulers are subject to God's justice and judgment. Though human governments may fail in delivering justice and righteousness, God will not fail. God's purposes will be accomplished, and we can look forward to the day when all things are made right through Jesus. This passage also reminds us that our true citizenship and allegiance are to God alone (Philippians 3:20). In the midst of a broken world, Romans 13 re-centers us on what truly matters—living for God's kingdom.

This passage also raises important questions. What do we do when governments are unjust? Are Christians never supposed to speak up? While Paul calls for submission to authorities, we are also called to stand against injustice (Isaiah 1:17). The tension between these two realities calls for discernment and courage. Romans 13:1-4 also challenges us to remember that order is preferable to chaos and that as Christians, we are called to live peaceful and quiet lives (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Even in a complex world, we are called to reflect God's peace in how we engage with authority.

—Pastor Kate

Explore

What questions does Romans 13:1-4 stir in you?

DAY 5: Reflect

Begin by reading Romans 13:1-4.

Respond to the following quote: “If follower of Jesus is a label that is taken seriously, at full intensity, it is actually not as tricky a matter as it first seems when we think about our loyalties. Followers of Jesus are people whose allegiance to their Messiah is a first priority in any context.”

—**Vincent Bacote**, *The Political Disciple: A Theology of Public Life* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015) 45-46.

In what ways does allegiance to Jesus challenge or reinforce the command to submit to earthly authorities?

Read Philippians 1:12-14. How do you reconcile the call to submit to authorities with the fact that Paul was imprisoned for defying them to preach the Gospel?

Week 5 DGroup Guide

Intro

What impacted you from your personal study this week?

Discussion

Read Romans 13:1-4 aloud. What do you find comforting or challenging in this passage?

Digging Deeper

Read Exodus 1:8-21. Reflect on the role of the midwives. How did they balance submission to authority with obedience to God? What can we learn from them in relation to Romans 13?

Read Psalm 47. How does the understanding that rulers are subject to God’s authority and will be held accountable influence the way we view leadership today? In what ways does this shape our prayers for, and expectations of, those in power?

Putting it to Work

Together, create a list of the “governing authorities” in your lives. In what ways do you currently submit to these authorities? Are there areas where you struggle with this?

What can you do to positively influence your community while still submitting to the authorities in place?

How does your belief in God’s sovereignty help you trust in God’s plan when you disagree with the actions of those in authority?

Prayer

Week 6

Peculiar Givers

Giving to everyone what we owe as a matter of conscience before God.

Romans 13:5-7

Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

DAY 1: Devotional Reading

Introduce yourself to Romans 13:5-7 by utilizing the *Devotional Reading Instructions* on page 2. Use the space below for notes or prayers.

DAY 2: Study

Dive deep into Romans 13:5-7 today through your chosen *Bible Study Method* from page 3. Feel free to mark up the passage on the previous page, and use the space below.

DAY 3: Ponder

Slow down and contemplate Romans 13:5-7.

Today I will ponder this passage by...

- a. Singing the passage
- b. Memorizing the passage
- c. Re-writing it in my own words
- d. Listening to it while going about my day
- e. Other:

Pondering God's Word has led me to...

- a. Prayer
- b. Gratitude:
- c. Action:
- d. Service:

Notes/Insights/Prayers

DAY 4: Going Deeper

Stewardship

Stewardship involves generously using the gifts and talents God has given us to love God and others. It's not just about financial giving, but also offering our time and skills. True stewardship goes beyond duty, leading us to give cheerfully in areas we might not usually invest. The prompts below will help you assess where you can steward your God-given resources and talents.

Looking Back

When in your life have you felt joyful in using your gifts? What made it so joyful, and how can you continue to steward your gifts to bring joy to yourself and others?

Financial

Pray to God and ask about a percentage of your income to give, knowing it can change as your income fluctuates.

Relational

List the people in your daily life. Do you know their needs? How can you use your gifts to bless them? Now think of those outside your circle—are you hesitant to help them? How can you extend your stewardship to them?

DAY 5: Reflect

Begin by reading Romans 13:5-7.

How does respecting and honoring governing authorities sit with you when you do not agree, respect, or honor those who are governing?

How does the knowledge that all you have belongs to God affect your life?

“If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small” —C. S. Lewis. Have you ever gone without so that someone else could have?

What do you need to have to be content?

Week 6 DGroup Guide

Intro

What impacted you from your personal study this week?

Discussion

Read Romans 13:5-7 aloud. What do you find comforting or challenging in this passage?

Digging Deeper

Read Matthew 22:17-21. How do you apply Jesus’ teaching on the relationship between our obligations to earthly authorities and our responsibilities to God?

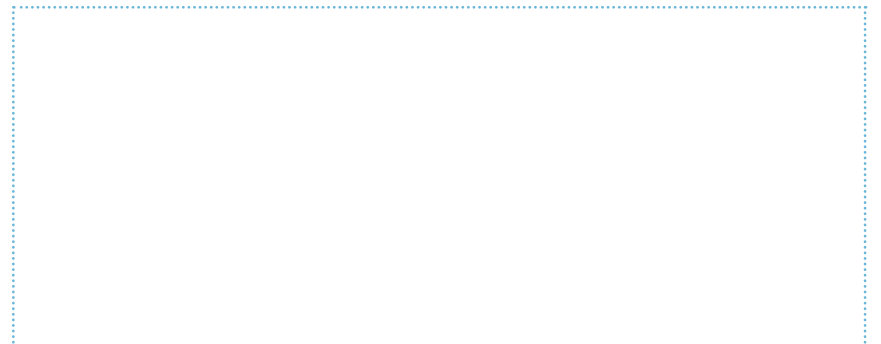
Read Galatians 6:7-10. How does this principle apply to the idea of giving to others? In what ways can we ensure that our actions reflect our commitment to “sowing good” for others?

Putting it to Work

When building the Tabernacle, Moses asked the people for their time, talents, and gold, and they gave so generously that he had to tell them to stop (Exodus 36:6-7). What would it look like today if God’s people had such a desire to give?

What practical steps can you take to ensure you are giving to others what you owe, both in terms of responsibilities and acts of kindness?

Prayer



Week 7

Peculiar Debtors

The continuing debt of loving others. Love does not harm our neighbors but fulfills the law of Christ.

Romans 13:8-10

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

DAY 1: Devotional Reading

Introduce yourself to Romans 13:8-10 by utilizing the *Devotional Reading Instructions* on page 2. Use the space below for notes or prayers.

DAY 2: Study

Dive deep into Romans 13:8-10 today through your chosen *Bible Study Method* from page 3. Feel free to mark up the passage on the previous page, and use the space below.

DAY 3: Ponder

Slow down and contemplate Romans 13:8-10.

Today I will ponder this passage by...

- a. Singing the passage
- b. Memorizing the passage
- c. Re-writing it in my own words
- d. Listening to it while going about my day
- e. Other:

Pondering God's Word has led me to...

- a. Prayer
- b. Gratitude:
- c. Action:
- d. Service:

“If what we call love doesn't take us beyond ourselves, it is not really love. If we have the idea that love is characterized as cautious, wise, sensible, shrewd, and never taken to extremes, we have missed the true meaning. This may describe affection and it may bring us a warm feeling, but it is not a true and accurate description of love.”

—Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*
(<https://utmost.org/updated/do-you-really-love-him/>).

DAY 4: Going Deeper

The call to love others is repeated over and over again in Scripture. Take some time to read the following Bible passages, noting after each one: What behaviors are associated with “love” in this passage? How many times does “love” appear in this passage?

Romans 13:8-10

1 Peter 3:8-12

John 13:34-35

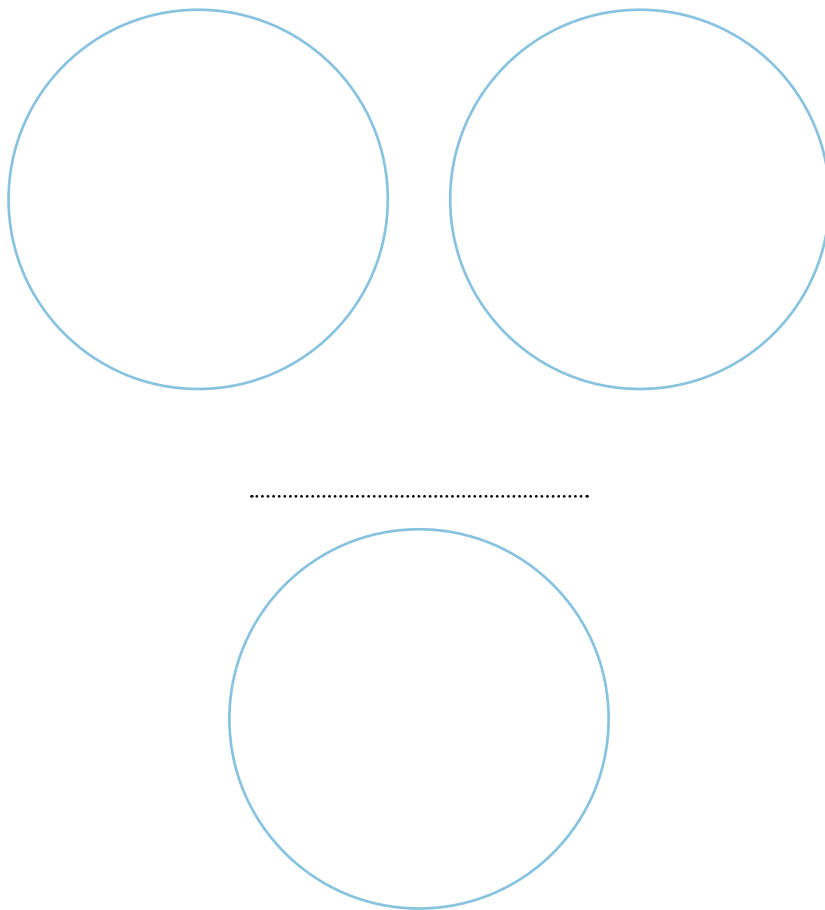
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

DAY 5: Reflect

Read Romans 13:8-10. Living out our faith is tied to how we treat others. Think of people in your life who are difficult to love. Choose 3 and write their names above each circle. Inside the circle write a few ways you can practice showing love to each of them.

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Week 7 DGroup Guide

Intro

What impacted you from your personal study this week?

Scripture

Read Romans 13:8-10. What do you find comforting or challenging in this passage?

Digging Deeper

In Romans 13:8, Paul states that the command to love fulfills the law. How does this understanding of love reshape your perspective on the other commandments from Exodus 20?

Read 1 John 4:7-12. How many times does “love” appear in this passage? What behaviors are associated with “love”?

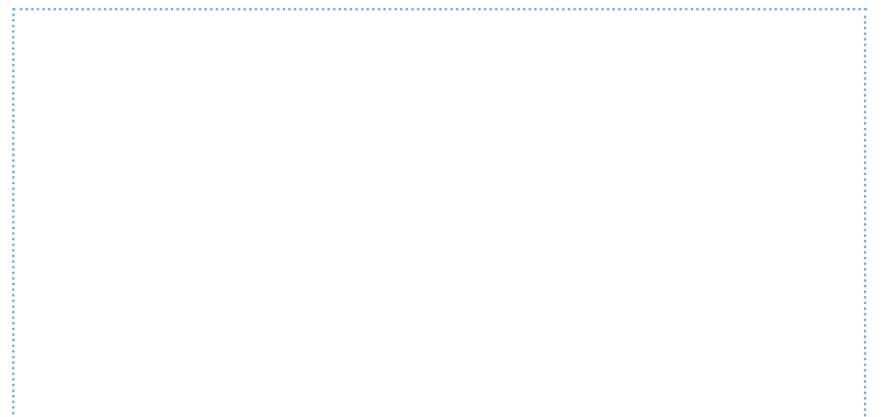
Putting it to Work

Romans 13:10 says, “Love does no wrong to a neighbor.” How can we actively promote a culture of love and respect within our community?

What specific actions can we take to ensure that our relationships reflect this principle of love?


Reflect on the last 7 weeks. How has God moved in this group?

Prayer





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