

C-Group Study Guide

Romans 1-9



Cultivating our Community for Christ
1 Cor. 3: 6-9

Calendar

July 11	Romans 1
July 18	No C-group – Anniversary Sunday
July 25	Romans 2
August 1	Romans 3
August 8	Romans 4
August 15	Romans 5
August 22	Romans 6
August 29	Romans 7 – Fellowship week
September 5	Romans 8
September 12	Romans 9 – Service week

2021 Connection Groups

<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Demographic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Barricklow	Open Group	Upper Room	SUN. – 5:30 P.M.
Reynolds	Open Group	Conference Room	SUN. – 5:30 P.M.
Simpkins	Open Group	Simpkins Home	WED. – 6:30 P.M.
Gillispie	Ladies	King's Classroom	WED. – 10:00 A.M.
Jennings	Open Group	Parsley Home	WED. – 5:30 P.M.

Helpful Tips for Studying Scripture

Below are some helpful questions to ask and answer when reading, understanding, and applying scripture to our lives. You do not need to answer all these questions as part of each week, but as you read through the passages you are encouraged to keep these questions nearby to enhance your experience reading God's word.

Understanding the Bible

- 1. What do we learn about God?**
 - a. Look for God's character (who he is, what he is like).
 - b. Look for God's conduct (what he is doing).
 - c. Look for God's concerns (what things, events, and people he is concerned about).
- 2. What do we learn about people?**
 - a. Look for aspects of what it means to be created in God's image.
 - b. Look for fallen condition
 - c. Look for how God's people should live.
- 3. What do we learn about relating to God?**
 - a. Look for things to praise and thank God for.
 - b. Look for sin to confess and repent.
 - c. Look for promises and truths to believe.
- 4. What do we learn about relating to others?**
 - a. Look for how we should interact with and treat others.
 - b. Look for ways to pursue reconciliation with others.
 - c. Look for specific ways to love, serve, and care for others.

Applying the Bible

- 1. What does God want me to understand?**
- 2. What does God want me to believe?**
- 3. What does God want me to desire?**
- 4. What does God want me to do?**

Content taken from Dr. Matthew Harmon's book, *Asking the Right Questions*, Crossway, 2017. Used with permission.

Romans

Background:

The Apostle Paul most likely wrote the book of Romans from Corinth to the Christian churches in Rome near the end of his third missionary journey in A.D. 57 (Acts 20:2-3). Having finished his work in the eastern part of the Roman empire, his desire was to make his way westward through Rome and on through Spain. The theme of Romans is the revelation of God's judging and saving righteousness in the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the cross of Christ, God judges sin and yet at the same time manifests his saving mercy.

Romans provides the fullest expression of Paul's theology (minus the appearance of any formal Christological passages), but its purpose was meant to address particular issues of concern in the Roman church. He addressed matters of interest for a mixed church of Jewish and Gentile Christians. These included answers to the questions of: Can one be right with God through obeying the law? What can be learned from Abraham, and is he the father of Jewish and Gentile Christians? What role does the law play with reference to sin? What does the salvation of Gentiles mean for the future of Israel as God's people? And should the Christians observe the OT food laws, and how should they relate to fellow believers on such matters?

The focus on these Jew-Gentile issues indicated a tension that existed between the two groups in the Roman church. Paul wrote this letter to unite the two groups in the gospel that he preached so that they would understand how the same gospel spoke to the issues that divided them. The aim of Paul's reasoning to write this letter is expressed in the key passage of Romans found in 1:16-17

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1

Connect:

What prevents you from sharing the gospel?

Interpret:

1. What is the connection between obedience and faith in vs. 5? Explain the significance.
2. What condition is stated for salvation in vs. 16? Who can meet this condition and how?
3. Explain the meaning of “righteousness from faith to faith” (see also Gal. 2:16). What OT passage is quoted in vs. 17? What does it teach?

Apply:

What errors occurred in people’s worship? Give examples in which people do such things today. Why should they know better?

Romans 2

Connect:

What sins do you often see held above others that lead people to question someone's salvation?

Interpret:

1. What did Paul ask in vs. 3? What reason does vs. 4 give that might explain why some hope to escape judgment? What is the reality of the day of judgment as described in vs. 5?

2. In vs. 12, what law did some people have that others were "without"? Who were in (or under) the law, and who were "without" it?

Apply:

How can someone not under divine law, commit sin? How does this influence your view of unbelievers and your approach to witnessing to them?

Romans 3

Connect:

Do the ends justify the means? Explain your reasoning.

Interpret:

1. What question does Paul ask in vs. 5? What is his response, and how does it answer the question? How does it change or solidify your answer to the connect question?
2. What belief did the Jews often have regarding their standing with God? What does 3:10-18 reveal and why would the Jews need to acknowledge the truth of the statements quoted here?
3. If people under the law offered sacrifices, why did the law not justify them (Heb. 10:1-4)?

Apply:

What verses in scripture say we are not justified (saved) by works? What verses in scripture say works are needed? How do we harmonize these passages that seem to contradict?

Romans 4

Connect:

What does it mean to be justified?

Interpret:

1. If Jesus had not yet died for sins, how were the righteous saved in the OT (4:1-4)? What does this prove regarding who can be justified by faith (4:16-17)?

2. Was Abraham justified by faith without obedience or by obedient faith (Heb. 11:17-19; Gen. 12:1-4; 15; 22:17-18)?

Apply:

Read 4:23-25. What did Jesus do to make our justification possible? What did both Jesus' death and then his resurrection accomplish respectively?

Romans 5

Connect:

Define biblical tribulation. How have you progressed from tribulation to hope in your own life?

Interpret:

1. For whom did Christ die and when did he die for them (5:6)? Why is it so unusual that Jesus died for such people (5:7,8)?

2. Define reconcile. Why do we need to be reconciled to God? What did Jesus do about our alienation from God (5:9,10)?

3. What consequences came through Adam and Jesus? Are these consequences physical or spiritual (5:15-19)?

Apply:

What kind of “death” does the context refer to? What does the dynamic shift made by Jesus mean for you in your current life?

Romans 6

Connect:

Share your experience with baptism. What did you think, feel, believe?

Interpret:

1. What is baptism a symbol of? According to vs. 4, what blessing follows the baptism into Christ? What is the outcome of this reality? (see Ezek. 11:19; 2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 2:20; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-10)
2. What does vs. 16 teach regarding our power to choose whom we will serve? Can we choose to be no slave at all? Explain.
3. Can a Christian continue to stumble into the same sin repeatedly after turning their life over to Christ? Why or why not?

Apply:

What “fruits” result from our choices (6:21,22)? How does this answer the question of continuing in sin?

Romans 7

Connect:

What “laws” or rules might you have been subject to growing up that you later found out were not required by scripture?

Interpret:

1. How long is one bound to the law? What illustration does Paul use to describe this? What lesson is taught from this illustration (7:4)?
2. What was the purpose of the law (7:7)? Though the law wasn't evil, what problem occurred from it (7:8)? What caused the problem, law or sin (Jam. 1:13-15)?
3. Is Paul discussing the case of people under the old Law or under the gospel in 7:1-14? What person do you think is being talked about in 7:15-20, a believer or an unbeliever?

Apply:

What results from allowing sin to rule in our members (7:23)?
What is the only solution to escaping the problem (7:24-25)?

Romans 8

Connect:

What does life in the Spirit look like?

Interpret:

1. What is the difference between those in the flesh and those in the Spirit? Can someone in the flesh do anything to increase their standing with God (5-8)?

2. What does the Spirit give us the ability to do (12-15)? What does the Spirit testify about us and what does that mean (16-17)?

3. Who are those who love God (31-34)? What is the outcome for them as described by what is known as the “golden chain of salvation” found in 8:28,29?

Apply:

What application does vs. 31 have to suffering, persecution, etc.?
What application does it have to seeking to please people?

Romans 9

Connect:

Who do you know that does not know Christ and whom your heart is burdened for?

Interpret:

1. What does Paul mean in vs. 6 when he says “not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel”? What Israel is Paul then talking about here?
2. What is election? How does “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated” (12) fall in line with God’s purpose of election (11)?
3. How do we understand man’s free will with regards to what Paul says in vs. 14-23?

Apply:

According to what Paul has written, did God choose us or did we choose God? How does your answer influence the object of the Christian faith?

Prayer Requests / Praises



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