



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

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L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Romans 12

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Begin by talking about the things that you are thankful for this Thanksgiving season. After mentioning these things, pray around the circle thanking God for these things.
2. Look at Romans 12:1-2. Discuss where you are in your walk—presentation of yourself to God (surrender), conforming to the world, or in the transforming process of renewing your mind.
3. Talk about the 7 spiritual gifts of 12:3-8.—what they mean, and which gift each person thinks they have. As a group help each identify a place in the church where their gift could be used.
4. Pick out a behavior or attitude from 12: 9-20 that you do well, and one that needs improvement. Talk about why you do the first well, and then some ways to improve the weaker area.
5. Discuss some areas in your life where “evil” tries to overcome you. How could you aggressively deal with this area by doing something good instead.
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

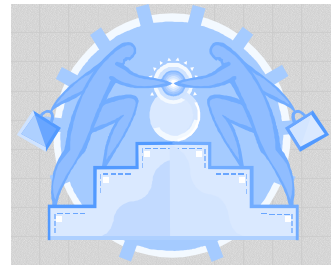
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions

9:00

10:45



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Bower-Chappell
Rm 112		Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims	Rm 201	How People Grow
Rm 202		Rm 202	“ “ “
Rm 203	Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 203	30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 204		Rm 204	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	Open—Regis-Anderson
Rm 206	Experiencing God—Graham	Rm 206	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 207	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 207	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 208	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 208	College—Ayres-Getchell
		Gym	Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker

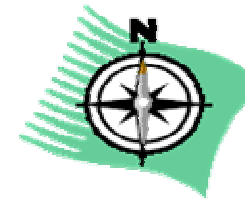
November 28, 2004

Extreme Makeover (Inside Edition)
Principles of Internal Change From the Book of Romans

Celebration Fellowship

Do the Right Thing

A preview of Romans 13-14



Volume 3, Issue 13
November 28, 2004

Inside this issue:

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Summary of Last Week's Study Questions	1-2
Study Guide	2-3
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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Value Added People

The business world refers to “value added” services and products. These relate to the “bonus” values added to the basic costs or performance of a service or product. These make you feel like you are getting more than you paid for. “Value added” could well describe living according to Romans 12. Those who actually live out the implications of Romans 1:11 will become people that bring added value to those around them. The first step in this process is the decisive presentation of oneself to God as a living and holy sacrifice, an act similar to the laying of an animal on the sacrificial altar. Just as Jewish priests sacrificed unblemished animals to God, so we, as recipients of God's mercy, should offer ourselves totally to God as an act of worship. Since we are already set apart to God, or made holy, by Christ's sacrifice for us, God considers our sacrifice as an acceptable act of worship. This type of worship also

makes sense because it is consistent with the spiritual nature of our new life with God. Having made this sacrifice, we are to stop fitting in with the systematic schemes of the world. Rather, we must allow ourselves to be transformed (literally, “metamorphosed”) by the renewing of our minds. When we do we will begin to live out the will of God in our lives, since our minds will be directed by His thoughts and ways. Thus, our lives will demonstrate that His will is good for people, that it is pleasing to live, and that it is complete and satisfying. This is kind of life everyone wants; so, when our minds are transformed by God, we show others that this life is available through Him. Paul, by the Spirit, then begins to point to specific changes that occur because of our renewed minds. One of these is a different mindset; rather than remaining arrogant and self-centered, we start becoming humble and others' centered.



God wants to remake us from the inside out.

able to live out this law of love, making sacrifices for the good of others. Additionally, we are able to live with a sense of confidence, knowing that God approves of the loving choices we have made. We can rest at night and accomplish much good when we “do the right thing”.

(Romans 12)

True humility is thinking accurately about ourselves—not too highly, and not too lowly—it is to be “level” minded, as the original word means. When we come to understand our abilities and limitations, we also become aware of our need to depend on others. As Paul says, we relate to one another like parts of a body—while we have different functions, we must value these differences, and be unified to carry out both our overall and individual purposes. These different functions are gifts of God's grace, and Paul lists seven to illustrate how these work together. Christians with the gift of prophecy are to declare the truth of God according to the measure of faith He gives them. Those with the serving gift express their faith by helping others, those who explain the Scriptures focus their faith in the area of teaching, and those who encourage others by coming alongside of them are to concentrate on exhortation. The faith of those with the gift of giving is shown by their single-

(Continued on page 2)

Romans 12 (continued from pg 1)

minded giving, those who lead express it through their committed leadership, and those gifted with mercy cheerfully empathize with others. When each uses their gift in this way the body is able to carry out effective ministry in the Name of Christ. The most important behavior for those with renewed minds, though, is sincere love. This is a love that sincerely seeks the good of the one loved, shrinking from evil, but holding on to the good. This means that true love, to be fully expressed, must be grounded in truth. Renewed minds also exhibit devoted love to others in God's family, much like the love seen in healthy human families. Also, if our minds have been transformed by God, our objective will be to put others first, putting their spiritual progress ahead of even our own. We will do this enthusiastically and with spiritual fervency, as if we were doing this for the Lord Himself. Another dimension of our new mindset will be our approach to difficulties. Rather than giving up, we will devote ourselves to prayer; this will allow God's hope to infuse us with joy and give us the strength to not "cave in" to pressure. Additionally, we will not only be mindful of our problems, but will take the initiative to help others, even while we are dealing with our own difficul-

ties. We will share what we have with those in need, and extend hospitality to those who are alone. When we are persecuted we will choose to bless our persecutors, instead of cursing them, and when those around us feel either joy or grief deeply, we will allow ourselves to share those feelings with them. Finally, those with renewed minds will be humble and treat everyone the same, rather than giving preference to the "power" people. They will understand that their wisdom comes from God, and, without Him, they are nothing. This attitude allows them to pursue peace with all people, and to live in a manner respectful of what is universally regarded as right. In doing this, though, Christians must recognize, that



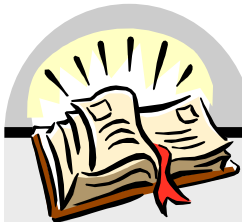
"In place of retaliation we should feed our enemy if they are hungry and give them a drink if they are thirsty."

while we must do our part, we can't cause peace to occur. Our responsibility is to never retaliate for the evil done to us, but to leave justice up to God. In place of retaliation we should feed our enemy if they are hungry and give them a drink if they are thirsty. This will make an impact on them, much like having burning embers placed on one's head. Hopefully, through our positive actions, those who are against us will become convicted of their wrongdoing, and repent. Romans 12 concludes with an important principle for living that summarizes how to deal with this present evil world: rather than letting the evil of this world overcome us, we must overcome it by doing good. To do this we must first decisively present ourselves to God as "living" sacrifices, allow our minds to be renewed by Him, and humbly use our spiritual gifts to serve others in the body of Christ. Our relationships in the body should be characterized by sincere love and devotion; with enthusiastic fervor we should serve the Lord by helping them. We should share God's blessings to us with those around us, and seek peace with those on the outside, and, refusing to retaliate, we should bless them instead. Thus, we will show how good, pleasing and complete God's will is.

Study Questions for Romans 13-14

We must live responsibly towards society, others and God if we are to fulfill His purposes in this world.

1. Read Romans 13:1-4. What is the source of government (v1), and what is its purpose (v3-4)? How should we relate to government (v2), and what results should we expect (v2, 3, 4)?
2. In Romans 13:5-7 what two reasons are given for submitting to government (v5), and how does this apply to paying our taxes (v5-6)? How should we react when government asks us to violate God's will (see Acts 5:29)?
3. Looking at Romans 13:8-10 what principle is given (v8), how does it relate to verse 7, and what does this mean (v10)? Why should we do this (v8, 10)?



"Hopefully, through our positive actions, those who are against us will become convicted of their wrongdoing, and repent."

4. According to Romans 13:11-14 why is it urgent that we carry out verse 8 (v11-12)? What is another reason to do this (v13)? What 2 things must we do to be able to love others (v14), and how do we do this?

5. Using Romans 14:1-4 describe the one "weak in faith" (v2), and how the "strong" should treat them (v1, 3). What is the wrong reason for doing this (v1), and what are the right reasons (v3, 4)?

6. From Romans 14:5-6, upon what basis should we make decisions (v6)? What attitude should we have towards that decision once we have made it (v5), and how can this help us know if a decision is right?

7. Read Romans 14:7-9. What further principle must we keep in mind in making decisions (v7), and whose example can we follow in this (v9)? How should we carry this out?

8. Using Romans 14:10-12 why is it foolish to stand in judgment of someone else's convictions (v10)? What will we all have to do one day (v11-12), and how should this make us act?

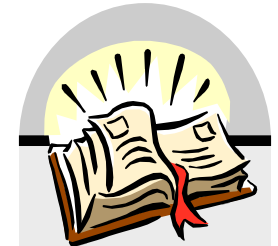
9. In Romans 14:13-15 what should do instead of judging others (v13), and why is this so important (v15)? What truth must we remember about others' convictions (14), and how should this affect us?

10. Looking at Romans 14:16-19 what "good" thing should we not be concerned about (v16), and why (v17)? What can we expect if we live this way (v18), and what should our real focus be (v19)?

11. From Romans 14:20-23 what should our main concern be with regard to exercising our freedom (v20-21)? What attitude must we have when we do something (v22), and why (v23)? Apply this.

12. Write a sentence that explains how we should relate to:

- 1) government (13:1-7)
- 2) others in general (13:8-10)
- 3) God (13:11-14)
- 4) weaker brothers (14:1-21)
- 5) self (14:22-23)



Memory Verse

**"So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."
Romans 14:19**