



**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.

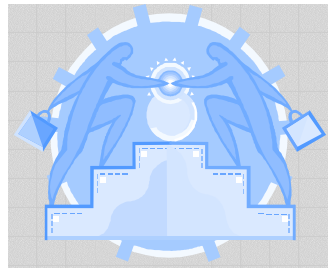
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find  
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**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

December 5, 2004

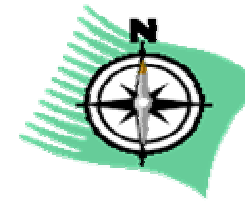
**Extreme Makeover (Inside Edition)**

*Principles of Internal Change From the Book of Romans*

**Celebration Fellowship**

**No Little People**

**A preview of Romans 15-16**



Volume 3, Issue 14  
December 5, 2004

**Inside this issue:**

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Summary of Last Week's Study Questions	<b>1-2</b>
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Life Group Questions	<b>4</b>

**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

Sometimes a celebrity, in receiving an award, will thank all the “little people” who made their accomplishment possible. The late Christian philosopher, Francis Schaeffer, entitled his commentary on Luke, “No Little People”, which recognized the same truth: in God's world, there are no “little people”. Everyone has an important contribution to make, and when we acknowledge this truth, life works much better. Paul underscored this principle as he concluded his letter to the Roman church. He encouraged these Roman believers to

please their neighbors for their good, and to accept them, since this was the very example Christ set. Furthermore, Christ served the “nobody” Gentiles with the same love as His fellow Jews, showing that they were no “little people”. Paul, by ministering to the Gentiles, followed Christ's example, and credited the Spirit with any “power” he had exhibited in his ministry; he understood that even he was no bigger than those to whom he ministered. He went on to express his concern for the poor of Jerusalem, and to encour-



**God wants to remake us from the inside out.**

age Gentiles to recognize the spiritual debt they owed these Jewish believers. Finally, all of those who had served or worked in Paul's ministry were listed and given credit for their service to the Lord. Paul's life exemplified the truth that there are no little people in our lives.

**Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz**

“Oh what a relief it is” concluded the jingle on the Alka Seltzer commercial of a few years ago, after the 2 tablets had plopped and fizzed in the water. There is a biblical principle that, if followed, produces a similar result for life itself; as Romans 13-14 shows us, when we fulfill our responsibilities towards one another, it provides sweet relief. The first area in which we have a responsibility to fulfill is that of government. We are told that all authority comes ultimately from God; therefore He is the source of human government. It was established by God to encourage good behavior by the members of a society, and to punish wrong behavior. Our general relationship to government, therefore, should be one of respect; we should uphold and obey its laws. When we do we should expect to receive praise for our actions, and experience the peace that comes from having no fear of punishment. This is one of the reasons we

should submit to government: to avoid the wrath that results from violating its laws. However, there is another reason, too; we should follow the laws of government for the sake of conscience. Since government provides the benefit of an orderly society and a general support for justice, it is only right to seek to uphold it. Even the most corrupt government (and Nero's Rome would fall in this category), provides many benefits for its citizens, and should be followed. This fact offers the basis for paying our taxes when due; since we receive benefits from government—orderly society, good roads, justice, etc, we should support our government financially. Additionally, since public servants, in one sense, are God's ministers employed to carry out His purposes, we should support them. However, as the example of Peter and John in Acts 5:29 shows, there are times when those in authority ask us to specifically

**(Romans 13-14)**

violate the clear will of God. In those times, which are usually rare, the principle we must follow is to obey God rather than man. Like Peter and John, we enter into such civil disobedience with the understanding that we will have to pay the consequences; but we accept this since God is the One to whom we must ultimately answer. There is another area in which we must fulfill our responsibilities, that of our relationships with one another. The general principle here is to “owe no one anything”, except, of course, the debt of love, which we will never fully pay. Therefore, we should pay our financial debts, our social and civic debts, and our moral and ethical debts. This brings a measure of relief to our lives, and it fulfills the law to love our neighbor as ourselves. When we do for others what we would do for ourselves, we are expressing love to them, and therefore carrying out God's desires. Furthermore, the command to love our neighbor carries with it a sense of ur-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Romans 13-14 (continued from pg 1)

gency, for our ultimate salvation from God is closer today than ever. Moreover, the light of the day of the Lord's return is about to dawn, so we should lay aside actions of darkness, and arm ourselves with His light. This means to refrain from drunken carousing, sensuality, and jealous strife, and to make no mental preparations for such actions. Instead, we should put on the Lord Jesus Christ—adopting His mindset, appearing to others as He would, and acting in His love. When we refuse the selfish desires of the flesh, replacing them with the selfless attitudes of Christ, then we will be able to love others genuinely, since unselfishness is the essence of such love. This attitude comes into play in our relationships with those "weaker" in the faith. They, who have not been able to accept their full freedom in Christ, must be received into the group by those who are stronger, but not for the purpose of condemning them. Rather, since God has accepted them, and is able to make them stand, they must be upheld in love. Each person must make their own decisions in relation to how they believe the Lord wants them to act, and this conviction must be held with full confidence. This provides a way to know what to do, for if one cannot be fully

convinced, then he should not do it. Furthermore, we must remember that we don't decide "just" for ourselves, for we live for the Lord, and we "die" for the Lord. This means that even when we die to certain options or desires, it is the Lord's wishes that are still paramount. The Lord Himself traversed life this way, not for Himself, but for us; so we must do no less. Additionally, it is not our place to judge someone else's convictions, for each of us will stand before the judgment seat of God, and each of us will give an account before Him when He distributes rewards. Since judgment is God's, we must determine to do nothing that would hinder a brother's growth, or that would "trip" him up in his walk with the Lord.



**"Our main concern should be whether our behavior promotes peace and builds up our brothers."**

When those who are stronger do things that lead the weaker brother into sin, then their freedom, which is a good thing, becomes characterized as bad. This is senseless, since the kingdom of God is not about eating or drinking, but about righteousness, peace, and joy. We must focus on these things, rather than on exercising our freedom to engage in certain activities. This approach to life is acceptable to God, and approved by others, so it has nothing to condemn it. Therefore, our main concern should be whether our behavior promotes peace and builds up our brothers. We must not tear down the work of God over something as unimportant as what we eat or drink. In relation to our convictions, and ourselves, we will experience sweet relief when we truly believe God wants us to act as we do, and we refuse to allow others to make us feel guilty because they disagree. This is an attitude that carries with it the Lord's blessing. So, when we submit to government when possible, fulfill our responsibility to love others, clothe ourselves with the Lord's life, instead of making room for the flesh, when we refrain from judging our weaker brothers, but build them up instead, and when we happily hold our faith convictions, "oh, what a relief it is".

## Study Questions for Romans 15-16

*Acknowledging the importance of everyone's role in the kingdom provides a healthy perspective for ministry.*

1. Read Romans 15:1-3. To whom are the strong responsible (v1), what should they do for them (v1, 2), and for what purpose (v2)? How can we do this (v1), and how did Christ exemplify this (v3)?
2. From Romans 15:4-6 for whom were the Scriptures written (v4), and why (v4)? How do the Scriptures accomplish this purpose (v5), and what are the immediate (v5) and ultimate (v6) results to be?
3. According to Romans 15:7-13 how should we treat each other (v7), and why (v7)? What was Christ's purpose in ministering to the Jews (v8), and to the Gentiles (v9)? How should this affect us (v13)?

4. Looking at Romans 15:14-16 what did Paul know about the Roman believers (v14)? Why, then, had he written so boldly to them (v15-16), and how did he view his ministry to them (v16)? Apply this to your life.

5. Using Romans 15:17-21, what was the only thing of which Paul was proud (v17-18), and for what result was he looking (v18)? How had Christ worked in Paul (v19), and what was his passion (v19-21)?

6. From Romans 15:22-29 what had kept Paul from visiting the Romans previously (v22, v20), and at that time (v25)? Why was his current project important (v25-27), and how does it apply to us (v27)? When would he see them (v24, 28)?

7. In Romans 15:30-33 what did Paul ask the Romans to do for him (v30), and why (v31), and to what did he hope this would lead (v32)? What did he pray for them (v33)?

8. Read Romans 16:1-16. List the qualities mentioned by Paul in his greetings to his friends (v1-2, 3-4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13). Which of these would characterize you, and which do you need to work on?

9. According to Romans 16:17-20 what "evil" should we keep out of our church (v17)? Describe the perpetrators (v18) of this evil, and what they try to do (v18). If we do this what promise do we have (19-20)?

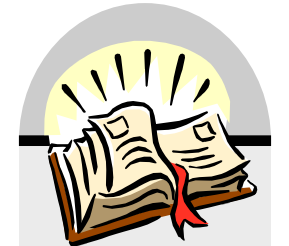
10. Using Romans 16:21-24 how would you characterize Paul's approach to ministry (v21-23)? How can we imitate this?

11. From Romans 16:25-27 who "establishes" us in the gospel (v25), and by what process (v25-26)? What "mystery" has been revealed (see Rom 11:25-32), and what should be the ultimate result (v26-27)?

12. Look back over Romans and write down 3 important truths you have learned from this study.



**"The kingdom of God is not about eating or drinking, but about righteousness, peace, and joy."**



## Memory Verse

**"Wherefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God."  
Romans 15:7**