



# CHRISTIANITY 101

## Studies in Romans

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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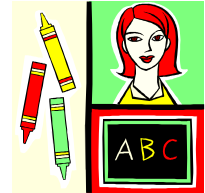
### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **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 God's mission

## A Donation or Total Sacrifice? Romans 12

The pig and the chicken were on their way to breakfast, trying to decide what to have. When chicken said, "Let's have ham and eggs", the pig then replied, "That's fine for you; it's a small donation on your part, but it's a total sacrifice for me." This is what Romans 12 calls for – a total sacrifice of our lives to Christ in view of God's mercies to us. Having shown in the prior chapters just how great this mercy is Paul then calls us to present our bodies as a personal sacrifice to God. It is to be a living sacrifice, shown by our actions, and it is to be a total sacrifice since our bodies represent all of us. This sacrifice is our spiritual worship to God and is enacted as we stop being conformed to this world, and rather are transformed by renewing our minds with God's truth. This allows the

will of God to be seen for what it is—good, acceptable and perfect. With this commitment in place we then are called to a public stewardship. Each true Christian has been given a measure of faith in order to build up other believers in the church and this is expressed through the way God has gifted each of us. Some are gifted as prophets (pro-claimers) of the Word, others as teachers, servants, encouragers, givers, leaders, or givers of mercy. Each of these should be done with passion and faith. Furthermore, we are to show genuine love to one another, seeking truth, and we are to show preference to others over ourselves. We are to fervently and joyfully serve each other for the sake of the Lord. Finally, our everyday lives are to demonstrate practical ser-



**Understanding the basics of Christianity will help us to grow to maturity.**

vice. We are to bless those who persecute us, rejoice with the joyful, and mourn with those who are sad. We should show respect to all, even the "lowly" and not view ourselves as wiser than everyone else. Instead of seeking "payback" we are to leave room for the wrath of God; justice is His responsibility, and ours is to be at peace with all men, as far as it depends on us. Since we can only control ourselves our response to mistreatment should be to do good to those who are against us, following the principle of overcoming evil with good. This requires more than lip-service though; it demands a total sacrifice.

## Study Questions for Romans 12

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study\\_questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study_questions))

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| 1. Read Romans 12:1. What act of worship does Paul urge the Roman Christians (and us) to do and what does this mean? What is the basis of this appeal and how does he describe this sacrifice?       |  |
| 2. In 12:2 what are we told to stop doing and to start doing? How would you do this? What is the result of this? What is the will of God like?   |  |
| 3. Based on 12:3-5 how should each Christian think of themselves and why (v3)? What should each member of the church know about themselves (v4) and their relationship to others in the Body (v4-5)? |  |

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## Romans 12 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 12:6-8 what truth about gifts is presented here (v6)? What gifts are listed and how should they be exercised (v6, 7, 8)? Which one do you think you have?

5. Using 12:9-10 what instruction is given about love (v9) and what is one key ingredient of this kind of love (v9)? How does it express itself to others (v10)?

6. From 12:11-13 list some attitudes (v11, 12) and actions (v11, 12, 13) that should characterize committed believers as they serve the Lord and one another.

7. Looking at 12:14-15 how should believers respond to those who try to hurt them (v14)? What 2 things are we told to do next (v15) and why is it sometimes difficult to do them?

8. Read 12:16-17. What further mindset should we have about ourselves and others (v16), and to what actions will this lead (v17)?

9. Based on 12:18-19 what should our goal be in all of our relationships (v18) and what do you think this looks like in your life? How should you handle being mistreated (v19)?

10. In 12:20-21 what specific action should we take towards those who seem to be set against us (v20) and what general principle should we follow (v21)? Apply.

11 Looking back over Rom 12 describe the commitment we should make to Christ, how it should play out in our Christian relationships, and to those in the world. Identify one principle, attitude, or action from this chapter that you can follow this week.

### Scripture to Remember

“Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

**Romans 12:1 (NASB)**

### ***Celebration Fellowship***

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

**Life Group Questions—*Why Sorry's Not Enough—The Struggle (Rom 7:15-25)***  
*(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share with the group some expectations you had of the Christian life when you first became a Christian. How has that worked out?
2. Read Romans 7:21-25. Describe Paul's (and ours) struggle against sin and how it makes us feel. How do you typically respond to this?
3. Discuss why some people don't acknowledge their struggle against sin. Why is it important for "religious" people to realize their struggle? Where are you—seeing your struggle or having difficulty seeing it? Why?
4. Talk about why struggling against sin is a "normal" Christian experience. What does this say about a "typical" day or week for a Christian? How does this make you feel?
5. Identify the wrong way to struggle against sin. What does trying to overcome sin "in the flesh" look like? What are some of the results of it?
6. Why is it important to know your enemy, your weapons, and your Commander to successfully gain victory over sin by the Spirit? Describe each of these.
7. How does being "in community" impact this entire struggle? Do most Christians utilize others to help them overcome sin, or not? How can we do a better job with this?