



# CHRISTIANITY 101

## Studies in Romans

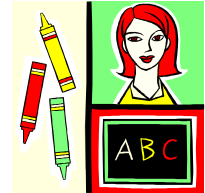
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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## Your Side of the Street Romans 13-14



### 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 well-known 12 step principle is that you have to work your side of the street if you are going to become whole. This means doing your part, taking responsibility for where you are and what you need to do to get better. This principle is applied in three areas in Romans 13-14. First, we must accept God’s authority in life. Since all authority flows from Him we must submit to His “delegated” authority to do our part. This means that by obeying those appointed over us, whether government, bosses, parents, etc, we are actually submitting to God’s authority. While there are exceptions, in general when we follow authority it is for our good; but when we rebel against it, we bring ourselves harm. Therefore, our life is much more pleasing when we follow God’s dele-

gated authority in our lives. We also submit to His authority when we fulfill our responsibility to love everyone. Love fulfills the law, and when we realize how near Christ’s return is, we will eliminate our old ways so that we can show love to others and ourselves. Secondly, we keep our side of the street clean by allowing God to be the Judge of others when they practice their convictions—without our condemnation. In view here are matters of preference, not clear biblical commands—like which days are holy and what foods and drink are acceptable. We are each to do this for the Lord, and not merely for ourselves, so we must not judge each other with contempt when we our outlooks differ on these practices. We must remember that we will each give an account of our-

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

selves to God. Finally, we must affirm our own convictions, holding them with integrity. This means that we don’t abuse our freedom in Christ and hurt another by our practices, but it also means that we do not condemn ourselves in what we approve, even if another disapproves. However, if we do doubt our conviction we stand condemned because we have not, with faith, followed our beliefs; and whatever is not of faith is sin. The point is that the kingdom of God is about righteousness, joy and peace, and focuses on building up others. To do this, we must work our side of the street.

## Study Questions for Romans 13-14

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf/html/study%20questions))

1. Read Romans 13:1-4. What is commanded (v1) and what is the rationale (v1-2, 3-4)? What are the results of disobedience to this command (v2, 4)? What is the better course (v3)?	
2. In 13:5-7 what 2nd reason, besides the ruler’s wrath, are we to subject ourselves to authority (v5) and what does this mean (v6)? How does this look in everyday life (v7)?	
3. Based on 13:8-10 what is the positive approach to fulfilling God’s will in all of our relationships in society (v8)? What principle sums up the entire law of God (v9) and why (v10)?	

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## Romans 13-14 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 13:11-14 what action (v12-14) and attitude (v11) should we have and why (v11-12)? What general principle should direct our lives (v14)? Apply.

5. Using 14:1-4 what are we instructed to do and why (v1)? Who is weak and who is strong in faith (v2) and how are they to regard each other (v3)? Why (v4)?

6. From 14:5-9 what guideline should we follow regarding the “gray areas” of conduct (v5)? What should be our concern (v6) and why (v7-8), and why is this important (v 9)?

7. Looking at 14:10-12 what is the real problem that Paul addresses (v10a)? What fact makes this foolish (v10b, 11-12) and how should this direct us to do?

8. Based on 14:13-16 what else should the fact of 14:10 lead us to do (v13)? What truth is brought out (v14), but how must we *not* misapply this truth (v15)? Why (16)?

9. Read 14:17-19. What does and does not characterize the kingdom of God (v17)? What is its outcome (v18)? What principle should this lead us to follow (v19)?

10. In 14:20-23 what 2 principles should guide us in our practices that are not clearly spelled out in the Bible (v20-21, 22-23)? Explain why verse 23 is true.

11 Looking back over Rom 13-14 what is “our part” in relation to authority (13:1-7), in general with all our relationships (13:8-14), and in our personal preferences (Rom 14:3, 5, 12, 13, 19, 22, 23)?

### Scripture to Remember

“The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what his heart approves.”

**Romans 14:22 (NASB)**

### *Celebration Fellowship*

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

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

### **Life Group Questions—A Borrowed Donkey (Luke 19:28-46)**

*(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 about the kind of leader you would follow and why those characteristics are important to you.
2. Look at Luke 19:28-46. What was Jesus doing by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey? Why do you think a donkey was a fitting “ride” for the work Jesus was doing? How do you present yourself?
3. Discuss the importance of the fact that Jesus fulfilled prophecy of His coming down to the very day it was prophesied. How should that affect our lives?
4. What does the fact that Jesus' first action was to cleanse the temple after He presented Himself as Israel's king? How can we apply that?
5. Talk about examples of people you know that either dismiss Jesus, try to kill Him, or try to use Him. How can we worship Him instead on a daily basis?
6. Discuss how we can each “fit into” the purpose for which Jesus came—not to rule, but redeem; not to be served, but to serve; not for a crown, but a cross; and not with a sword, but as a sacrifice.
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message of time permits.