



CHRISTIANITY 101

Studies in Romans

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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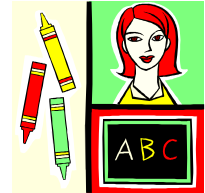
The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **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

It Takes a Village Romans 15-16

The African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child”, reveals the need for positive input from many care-givers for a child to turn out well. In fact almost every venture benefits when a well-led team is involved. This truth is seen in this week’s final study in Romans. The apostle Paul, first referencing Christ’s acceptance, then showed his interdependence with the Roman Christians to whom he had been writing. He then credited the many there who were faithful to Christ’s ministry. He began by showing that our need for each other is proven by Christ’s example. Christ didn’t just please Himself, but rather suffered reproaches for God so that He could minister to us. The Scriptures, which were written for us to have hope, encouragement and persever-

ance, show this. Jesus accepted both Jews and Gentiles, directing us to accept one another, in spite of our outward differences. The importance of our mutual dependence was then prompted by Paul’s example as he encouraged the Roman Christians. Affirming that they were knowledgeable and competent, he also reminded them that his ministry to the Gentiles was God’s idea. He had used the preaching of the gospel and reinforced it with signs and wonders, so that it had led to the Gentiles’ obedience of faith. Paul desired to expand this ministry, first going to Rome in person on his way to Spain, but first he had to drop off a benevolence offering to the Jerusalem Christians. This underscored the Gentiles’ spiritual debt to the Jews. He knew that he



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

would be refreshed in Rome, just as he had been in other places where he had partnered in unity and wisdom. After greeting and encouraging many with whom he had worked, Paul exhorted the Romans to beware of those who cause dissension, to be wise in what is good, and innocent in evil. He promised that God would soon crush Satan under their feet. He closed the letter with a call for God’s glory who was able to establish them securely because of Christ. He had made this known to all for His glory. He recognized, though, that it took many, a village, to make this glory known.

Study Questions for Romans 15-16

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

<p>1. Read Romans 15:1-4. What are we called to do (v1, 2) and to not do (v1)? Who set the example (v3) and what Scripture did this fulfill (see Ps 69:9)? What must we remember (v4) and why (v4)?</p>	
<p>2. In 15:5-7 what does God give us (v5)? What does Paul pray and why (v5-6) and how does it relate to what God gives us (v5)? What action must we take and what proves this (v6)? Apply.</p>	
<p>3. Using 15:8-13 how did Christ show He accepted all (v8, 9)? How does the Old Testament (2 Sam 22:50, Deut 32:43, Ps 117:1, Is 11:10) show this? Explain Paul’s prayer (v13) and how this works.</p>	

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Romans 15-16 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 15:14-21 what did Paul know (v14) and why had he challenged them (v15-16)? What was Paul's goal (v17-18, 20-21) and how was it carried out (v19)?

5. Based on 15:22-29 what was Paul's longing (v23) and what had stifled this (v22-23)? How did this change and why (v24-28) and what did he expect (v24, 29)

6. Looking at 15:30-33 what did Paul want (v30) and why (v31, 32)? What was the basis for this request (v30) and what did he wish for them (v33)?

7. From 16:1-16 list some things Paul commended in others (v1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12) and some personal notes did he gave (v3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13). What did he instruct and why (v16)?

8. Using 16:17-20 what was Paul's warning (v17) and why (v18)? How did he characterize the Romans (v19) and what did he advise (v19)? What did he promise (v20)? Apply.

9. Describe Paul's "team" from 16:21-24—who they were and what they did. What does this tell us about Paul and how should this instruct our ministry?

10. Read 16:25-27. How did Paul describe God (v25, 26, 27) and His work (v25)? How did he explain his ministry (v25-26)? What was Paul's goal (v26, 27)?

11 Review Romans 15-16. How did Christ's example show the necessity and importance of unity (15:1-13) and how did Paul's ministry encourage it (15:14-33, 16:1-16, 21-24)? What wisdom did Paul give for carrying out God's plan (16:17-20, 25-27)?

Scripture to Remember

"I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

Romans 16:19-20 (NASB)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—*The Kiss of Death (Luke 22:1-4, 47-53)*

(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. Everyone think of a person who you consider to be very loyal and one who has betrayed you. From this try to define loyalty and betrayal.
2. Read Luke 22:1-4, 47-53. How do you think Jesus felt in this situation? Explain the 3 reasons betrayal is painful—the shock of it, the source of it, and the sickness of it. To which of these can you most closely relate?
3. Discuss the process of betrayal—how Judas became the betrayer. Even though Judas was destined to do this, what was his "part" in it?
4. Why is it wrong to excuse ourselves with "the devil made me do it" (look at Jas 1:13-14)? What does it mean "Satan only has ground that we give to him" (see Eph 4:26-27)?
5. Talk about the attitudes that Judas might have had—superiority, jealousy, anger, manipulation. Which of these would cause you to fall the fastest? Explain.
6. Do you think that you could have done what Judas did—why or why not? In what ways today does each of us betray Jesus? How do we cultivate loyalty to Him instead?
7. Talk about anything else meaningful from the message of time permits.