



Week 21: Romans 9-16

Study Guide for the week of May 18-24

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time considering Romans 12:1-2.

What does it mean to bring your whole body to God as a sacrifice? How does what you look at impact your life? What you listen to? What you speak? What you eat? The objects you handle? How you express your sexuality? How you spend your time? What your goals are? What you think about?

As you consider the idea that you are called to present all that you are – mind, body, soul, spirit – to God, are there areas of your life or aspects of your body that are copying the behavior and customs of the world rather than what is good and pleasing to God? Are there places in your life that you need to ask God for help in changing your mind and the way you think so you live into becoming the new person God has called you to be? What new thoughts and habits is God calling you to cultivate with his grace and his power?

Discussion starters

1. Compare Paul's teaching on love in Rom 12:9-21 with Gal 5:16-26 and Gal 6:1-10. Which of these teachings is most challenging? How can you apply this teaching to your life this week with your family? With your co-workers? With your friends? With your small group?
2. Reread Rom 13:1-7. Is there a conflict between obedience to the governing authorities and engaging in acts of civil disobedience in the face of unjust policies? Can you imagine any practical value in placing your loyalty to God before your loyalty to a nation?
3. In a recent study, researchers found that Christians were more likely to ask for heroic medical measures in the last weeks of life than non-Christians. Is this surprising in the light of Rom 14:8-9 and Rom 8:38-39? Have you considered how you will approach end-of-life issues? Should faith inform these decisions? If so, how?
4. How should we handle situations where one faithful Christian enjoys wine in moderation with a meal while another faithful Christian believes strongly that to drink anything at all is a sin? What advice can we gain from Rom 15:14-19?
5. Make a list of the people Paul names in Rom 16 and the role they played in the early Church. What patterns do you notice? Are there tensions today regarding the expectations of leaders in the Church and the expectations our wider culture has of leaders?

Bible verse to memorize: Romans 12:2