

Romans: More Questions

Here are additional questions for your individual or group study. The chapters below correspond to the chapters in Romans: Understanding God's Grace and Power.

Chapter 1

- What are at least four things we can we learn about the Good News of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) from Romans 1:1-5?
- What do verses 8-13 tell us about Paul's feelings about the Roman believers?
- Paul felt a "great sense of obligation to people in our culture and to people in other cultures, to the educated and uneducated alike" (1:14). What obligation do you have? Who are the people in your culture? What can you do to reach them?
- Paul was not ashamed of the Good News about Christ. Are you ever ashamed of Christ and His Good News? If you aren't, what's keeping you from telling more people about it?

Chapter 2

- What are some of the reasons God's wrath is being revealed?
- According to 1:19-20, what does everyone know about God?
- What would you say to someone who refuses to acknowledge that God exists?
- From 1:18-32, form an argument that refutes the idea that people are basically good.

Chapter 3

- In 2:17-29, Paul focuses on hypocritical Jews. What view did these people have of themselves? How would verses 21-24 apply to any hypocrite today?
- In what ways does religious hypocrisy damage the cause of Christ?
- Do you know any non-Christians who are sincerely seeking God? How do you reconcile this with Paul's statement in 3:11?
- Why does Paul talk about God's judgment before he talks about God's grace?

Chapter 4

- According to 4:1-8, how were Old Testament saints, such as Abraham and David, justified before God?
- How do the examples of Abraham and David refute the notion that God accepts us only when we are good?
- Some of the Christian Jews in Rome believed that a person was truly saved only if he was circumcised. What kinds of false ideas to some Christians have today about what is required for salvation?
- Read about Abraham's faith in 4:20-22. Have you ever had doubts about God delivering on His promises? What can you do when you have such doubts?

Chapter 5

- List Paul's reasons for rejoicing (5:2-11).
- In what ways are problems and trials good for us (5:3-5)?
- How does 5:9-10 give you confidence and assurance that God has accepted you completely?
- In what ways is Christ's righteousness similar to Adam's sin? In what ways is it different?

Chapter 6

- Contrast your “old sinful self” (6:6) with your new life in Christ (6:8).
- Do you get rid of sin once you become a Christian? Why not? How has Jesus freed you from this enslavement?
- So why do you keep on sinning?
- Why is the metaphor of slavery so appropriate in this discussion?

Chapter 7

- As a Christian, you are no longer obligated to the law. Explain how the principle of marriage illustrates this.
- How is it that the law creates in us an awareness of sin? Do you think everyone—Christians and non-Christians like—has this awareness?
- In the previous chapter, Paul explained that Christians are no longer slaves to sin (6:6). Now in Romans 7, he writes that he is a slave to sin (7:14). Is this a contradiction, or is there another explanation?
- How can you benefit from your struggle with sin?

Chapter 8

- Make a list of the times the word “Spirit” or “Holy Spirit” is mentioned in 8:1-17. Draw three conclusions from this list.
- What can those who are controlled by their sinful natures expect? What about those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit?
- When do you know your life is being controlled by the Holy Spirit?
- Why are we more than conquerors, despite everything that’s going on that would seem to contradict this idea?

Chapter 9

- Why was Jesus more of a stumbling block to the Jews than to the Gentiles (9:30-33)?
- According to 10:16-21, what are the reasons for Israel’s unbelief?
- What evidence does Paul give to support his contention that God has not rejected His people (11:1-6)?
- In 11:7-10, Paul lists the spiritual consequences for those Israelites who rejected Jesus. Is it possible for these same things to happen to someone today who persistently rejects Jesus?

Chapter 10

- Is it possible for you to worship the Lord throughout the week? Is it practical? Is it beneficial? Explain.
- What can you do to pro-actively allow God to transform you thinking? What are some things you will have to give up?
- How would you use Romans 12:2 to help someone better understand God’s will for their lives?
- What does Paul mean when he encourages us to “really love” others?

Chapter 11

- What should be the attitude of Christians toward government in the face of current social problems and international disputes?

- Do you really believe government authorities are sent by God to help you (13:4)? Of you do, should you change the way you treat them?
- If you work for the government, how should 13:4 change the way you approach your job?
- What are some practical ways you can let Jesus take control of you?

Chapter 12

- How do “weak” Christians and “strong” Christians generally treat each other?
- In what category do you place yourself? What kinds of Christians are you most likely to look down upon? Why?
- What happens when we judge other Christians?
- What things in your life do you need to change in order to be a more Christ-like influence to others?

Chapter 13

- Read 15:23-33. List some specific characteristics of these Christians. How can you and your church be more like these people?
- Paul had never been to Rome, yet in 16:1-16 he sends greetings to a bunch of people. How is this possible?
- What kinds of people were causing divisions in the Roman church (16:17-20)? Are there people like this in your church? What can be done about it?
- How has Romans helped you better understand your Christian life?