CHANGES

THE GOS



GC Discussion Guide

### GC Discussion Guide through ROMANS

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<sup>\*</sup>some questions taken and adapted from Romans: Knowing the Bible 12-week Study

### Week Seven ROMANS 12:1-8

### **CHAPTER 12:1-8**

- Define sacrifice. What does it mean in vs. 1 to be a "living sacrifice"?
   Why is this referred to as "spiritual worship"?
- 2. In what ways do you struggle most with conformity to the world (12:2)? What is Paul's antidote to being conformed to the world (12:2)? What might this look like in your present daily living?
- 3. Paul emphasizes humility and oneness in vs 3-5. It's so critical to understand that we are one with each other (beyond just here at Redeemer). What are some barriers you find in yourself that makes it difficult for you to find "unity" with believers who are different from you in some way?
- 4. In Romans 12:3-8 we find one of the four NT treatments of spiritual gifts. Other references include 1 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28; and Ephesians 4:11. What similarities and differences do you observe? What do you perceive to be your own spiritual gifts? What would others say about you in regard to your gifting?
- 5. In what ways could you use your spiritual gifts to "build up the body" of our GC?

## Week Eight ROMANS 12:9-21

### **CHAPTER 12:9-21**

- How can Paul command what appear to be feelings, such as love, fervency, or rejoicing in 9-12?
- 2. What does it mean to be "constant in prayer" (v. 12)?
- 3. Why does Paul exhort us to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep? What examples can you give of these illustrated in the life of Jesus?
  - a. What are ways that you have seen this group weep/mourn with you? What are ways that we can practically get better at mourning or grieving together?
  - b. What are ways that you have seen this group rejoice/celebrate with you?
    What are ways that we can practically get better at celebrating and rejoicing?
- 4. When you read Romans 12:19, do you find this passage difficult, liberating, or a combination of both?

### Week Nine ROMANS 13:1-7

### **CHAPTER 13:1-7**

- According to verse 1, who puts all governing authority in place? What does
  this say about our rebellion against governing authority and/or the laws put
  in place by that authority?
- 2. What is your default posture to all types of authority (bosses, government, parents, coaches, etc.)? Is it submission, trust, skepticism, critical, second-guessing, etc.? What does this potentially say about your posture to God's authority over you?
- 3. How is Paul's instructions throughout the first portion of Chapter 13 (vs. 1-7) ultimately an act of faith?
- 4. How do we reconcile the instructions in the first portion of Chapter 13 with other portions of NT that include NOT submitting to authority (ie. Acts 4:19-20,5:29; 1 Peter 2:20)?

### Week Ten ROMANS 13:8-14

### **CHAPTER 13:8-14**

- 1. How does loving one another fulfill the law (v. 8-10)? How does love sum up the entire law?
- 2. What do you think Paul is trying to communicate in v. 11-14 when he uses the illustration of day and night in that context.
- 3. What does it mean to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 13-14)? Where else in the NT would you find a similar idea?
- 4. What are ways that we can practically as individuals and as a group "make no provision for the flesh"? (v. 14).

### Week Eleven ROMANS 14

### **CHAPTER 14**

- 1. Why do we normally judge others? What underlying attitudes might being judgemental of others spring from?
- 2. What are some more modern examples that we deal with today that we could compare with "eating certain foods" or "considering one day more important than another"? (v. 3 & 5).
- 3. According to verses 7&8, what is the guiding principle to help us navigate the potential issues of disagreement? How can we practically not be a stumbling block to others in these areas without becoming overly sensitive to every person around us?
- 4. If we do have conflict with others in some of these areas, why is reconciliation between believers so critical to demonstrate to the unbelieving world around us?
- 5. Read Rom 14:17-19. What does this passage mean? What does it mean to be approved by God and man? Is this possible? What steps can you take to accomplish this in your own life?

### Week Twelve ROMANS 15

### **CHAPTER 15**

- 1. In 15:1, Paul refers to "the strong" and "the weak". How would you define strong and weak members of the body of Christ? Are any of us truly one or the other at all times?
- 2. In reading the last part of Romans 14 and 15:1-7, what is the main theme that you see? What is the main objective that Paul is trying to communicate to the people of God?
- 3. What theological truth are we being reminded of in 15:8-13? Why is it important that Paul remind the original readers of this letter?
- 4. What is the significance of Paul's statement in v. 20? What does it mean to build or not build on another man's foundation? Does this have to be true for all of us?

# Week Thirteen ROMANS 16

### **CHAPTER 16**

- What do we learn about Paul and his ministry from the greetings he gives in Romans 16:1-16? Notice he is very specific in all of his commentary towards these individuals.
- 2. Read 16:17-19. Of these various exhortations, which one is the most significant to you in your life right now? Why?
- In 16:20, Paul states that the God of peace will crush Satan under OUR feet. What is significant about the way he expresses this truth? Consider Genesis 3:15, and Ephesians 1:22.
- 4. Thinking back on our study through Romans, what have been some of the more impactful themes for you? What has been convicting, encouraging, and has stood out to you?