



Sermon Discussion Questions: Romans 13-14

Romans 13:1-7

1. Share a story (positive or negative, funny or serious) about your interaction with a government official.
2. Do you tend to have too high or too low a view of government authorities that God has sovereignly ordained over you? Why do you think that is?
3. In this passage, what are some reasons Paul gives for submitting to governing authorities? Which is hardest for you to agree with?
4. How does it make you feel when our government convicts wrongdoing? What about when our government does not convict wrongdoing? How does the knowledge of God's sovereignty and justice sustain you in both scenarios?
5. What specific ways can you give thanks for our current government authorities? What are some specific ways you might be tempted to resist our government authorities?
6. Spend some time in prayer for our governing authorities. Also, ask for God to help you maintain a spirit that respects "whom respect is owed" (Romans. 13:7).

Romans 13:8-14

1. When you think of God's law, what word comes to mind?
2. Paul indicates that the entire law can be summed up in one word "love" and then uses 4 of the 10 commandments to illustrate his point. How is keeping each of these commandments ultimately loving your neighbor as yourself?
3. Read 1 John 4:19. What is our motivation for our love for one another? Spend some time reflecting on how Jesus fulfilled the commandments above.
4. Why do you think verse 11 follows Paul's command to love one another? How does knowing salvation is nearer today help you live faithfully and love deeply?
5. How are you doing right now at fulfilling the command to love your neighbor? Are you weary? Are there certain individuals you're having a hard time loving? After sharing your struggles, take time to ask God to help you see His love for you in new & fresh ways and then to help you love others the way He loves you.
6. Paul concludes this section by calling believers to "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*" In what ways are you tempted to "make provision for the flesh?" What steps can you take to fight against these desires and put on the Lord Jesus Christ?

Romans 14:1-12

1. How would you define legalism? How have you seen or experienced this in your life?
2. To the best of your ability, describe the situation in the church in Rome. Who are the two groups, and what did they each believe (their opinions)? Which group would you put yourself in right now?
3. How did Paul say each group should respond to the other? What reasons did he give for these actions?
4. Who are Christians ultimately held accountable to? How might this reality keep you from judging your brother or sister?
5. In what way(s) are you currently tempted to pass judgment on others? Spend some time praying for yourself and for our church family—that we would be a welcoming community of believers.

Romans 14:13-23

1. Share an example of putting a stumbling block in the way of a brother or sister. If it's a personal story, talk about how that impacted you & those around you.
2. In Romans 14, Paul indicates there are differing opinions on a number of issues. What are they? Which ones are still common today? What are some other present-day issues Christians have differing opinions on?
3. Being right is not the chief Christian virtue. Looking back at Romans 12, what is the chief Christian virtue? How might this virtue be displayed in current areas of disagreement between Christians?
4. According to verses 17-19, what are some characteristics of the kingdom of God? Are these characteristics currently being displayed in your life in areas where you disagree with a Christian brother or sister?
5. Paul provides blessings and warnings for those who heed or don't heed his counsel. What are they? Which one might particularly motivate you today as you seek to "not pass judgment on one another...or put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother"?