

ROMANS

XII - XV

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

OCTOBER 20, 2019

INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The time for membership and baptism has passed. The next round of classes will be in the spring. More information can be found online at northview.org/membership or northview.org/baptism.
- Northview is running many different courses this fall/winter. Those include:
GriefShare: October 22, 29; 7pm
Resolving Everyday Conflict: October 22, 29; 7pm
Financial Basics 101: October 22, 29; 7pm
DivorceCare: 13wk seminar starting January 14th
DivorceCare for Kids: 13wk seminar starting January 14th
For more information and to register, visit: northview.org/courses
- We are hosting our first ever New to Northview event at the East Abbotsford Campus on Sunday, October 27. If you are new to our church, please join us during Connect Time (10:15-11:00am) for a chance to get to know some people, as well as hear from Pastors Greg, Thaleia, and Jeff.
- Sign up for Northview's Newsletter at northview.org to never miss another event.

RESOURCES FOR ROMANS

Suggested Devotional / Personal Bible Study Resources:

Romans For You (Tim Keller): A 2 Volume set
www.thegoodbook.com/romans-for-you-set

Commentaries:

R.C. Sproul, *Romans: An Expositional Commentary*, 2009.

Douglas Moo,
The Letter to the Romans (New International Commentary on the New Testament, 2018).

Douglas Moo,
Romans (The NIV Application Commentary Book 6)

LEADER NOTES

Suggested Timing for a 2 hour meeting:

Connection: 30 Minutes (visiting / snacks / announcements / ice breakers)

Content: 30 Minutes (Observation and Interpretation questions):

Commission: 10-15 minutes (Application questions)

Care: 15-30 minutes (Sharing and Prayer)

Connection: 15-30 minutes (visiting / snacks)

LEADING SERMON-BASED DISCUSSIONS:

- Read the scripture passage(s) together as a group.
- Direct people back to the text if they are going on rabbit trails or talking about opinions and speculation, by asking, "Where do you see that in the text? What answer does the text provide for that question?"
- As you transition to prayer time, pray through the issues and ideas that the text brought up.

ROMANS SERMON SERIES

Our Fall Sermon Series in Romans is highly practical! In Romans 1-11 Paul provides a theological framework for the Christian Faith. Now, in the final section of this letter, he gives the church in Rome specific examples of how this faith should be lived out.

Benefits of this series: It will feel highly practical for all of your group members. Romans 12-16 will force them to reflect on how their faith impacts their everyday life.

Potential pitfalls of this series: It is easy to fall into moralism and legalism when we focus on what we should and should not do if we are Christians. Keep this in mind! The sermon discussion questions will aim to remind us of the gospel truths behind each command.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

Observation

This section is aimed at helping people observe the details of the text: what is written, what words or ideas are repeated and emphasized, the text's structure and how this text fits into the wider context of the book of Romans.

1. Read Romans 12:17-21 together as a group.
2. What are the commands that Paul gives in this passage?
 - ***Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. (v. 17)***
 - ***If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (v. 18)***
 - ***Do not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath. (v. 19)***
 - ***If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. (v. 20)***
 - ***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (v. 21)***
3. In this passage of Scripture, Romans 12:9 describes broadly how Christians ought to live, and vv.17-21 give a few more specific examples.
 - a. Are the actions listed in vv. 17-21 directed to those inside the church or outside the church?

Paul is referring to believers actions toward those outside the church in vv. 17-21
 - b. How are the commands in Romans 12:17-21 an extension of the command we see in verse 9?

These commands are more specific ways to love genuinely. To hate evil and cling to good is to live actively opposed to it, not repaying evil with evil.
4. Paul doesn't just tell believers to refrain from taking revenge, but goes a step further. What does this look like?

Extending kindness to enemies (v. 20)

Interpretation

This section is aimed at linking the current text to other texts or to the bigger biblical narrative. If you are running out of time, feel free to skip this section.

1. Read Luke 6:27-36 and John together as a group.
 - a. How should we treat our enemies?

Love your enemies, do good to them, lend to them - extending kindness to your enemies. It is not difficult to love those who love us back; however, as Christians, grace transforms us to be able to love those who don't love us back.

- b. What is the motivation for treating our enemies in this way?

We have been shown mercy from God so we are able to extend mercy to those who wrong us (Luke 6:36)

2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-18 together as a group. What does Peter add to the idea of responding to enemies and suffering in the passage?

Application

This section is aimed at helping people apply what we have read in the text to our lives. It is intended to foster more open-ended discussion as people connect the text to their everyday life, and reflect on how it changes the way they think and act.

1. What might be a situation where it is NOT possible to live at peace with someone (v.18)?
 - a. In situations where peace is not possible, what can Christians do to overcome evil with good?

Various answers. We do our part to live at peace with everyone, however, we can not please everyone. Sometimes people won't/don't want to be reconciled with us & we can't force them to be.
2. What is an example of a person wronging you, where you took vengeance on them? We don't want to name names but just talk about situations.
 - a. Take some time as a group to brainstorm other responses you could have taken.
 - b. What could you have done instead to "heap burning coals on their heads" (v. 20), and thereby overcome evil with good?

Various Answers

3. How can you relinquish your perceived right for vengeance when you have experienced mistreatment?
 - a. What kinds of vengeance are you prone to commit?

Some examples of taking vengeance might be: gossiping, slandering, confronting in anger, etc.
 - b. What sorts of practices or actions can you implement to help you avoid taking vengeance?

People often talk about pausing before they speak, writing a letter to the person who wronged you, etc.
 - c. How has God responded to humanity's mistreatment of Him?