

ROMANS

XV · XVI

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EAST ABBOTSFORD CAMPUS

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

INFO AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For more information on how to identify levels of doctrine when the conversation becomes divisive:
 - Disputable Matters Podcast:** northview.org/disagreeing-on-disputable-matters/
 - Levels of Doctrine Blog by Justin Taylor:** www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/how-do-you-evaluate-and-weigh-the-importance-of-various-doctrines/
- Northview is running many different courses this winter/spring. Those include:
DivorceCare/ DivorceCare for Kids: 13wk seminar starting January 14th
More information and to register see: northview.org/courses
- Men's Retreat April 3-5 at Rockridge Canyon. For ages 18+, but fathers can attend with their sons ages 13-17. Registration and all the details at northview.org/men. **Early bird registration ends Feb 10. For those needing financial assistance, please contact the Northview at men@northview.org.**
- Next Praise and Prayer night will be February 9 at 5:30pm.
- 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 16:17-27.
2. What are some things we learn about God in this passage?
3. What are the Roman Christians supposed to watch out for?
 - a) What does Paul advise them to do in response to "those people"?
 - b) What does Paul ask them to be in response to this threat?
4. How does Paul describe the opponents of "good doctrine"?
5. Read Romans 16:25-27, the Doxology, closely.
As Paul ends the book of Romans, he recycles words and images that he has previously used in the letter. Look for these connections.

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 Genesis 3:13-19.
 - a) What part of this passage does Paul allude to in Romans 16:17-27?
 - b) Why would Paul go all the way back to Genesis to give an encouraging quote to the Roman Christians? What is Paul trying to get them to understand?

2. Read Matthew 10:16-23.
 - a) Jesus' encouragement to his disciples to be "shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves," is very similar to Paul's words in v19. What is the situation that causes Jesus to speak these words?
 - b) Where do the opponents Jesus warns his disciples about come from?
3. Read Ephesians 3:20-21; Jude 24-25.
What similarities do you see in these Doxologies in comparison to the one in Romans?

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 sort of opponents to good doctrine have you encountered in your life? How did you deal with it?
2. What part of Paul's last words to the church in Rome do you find the most encouraging?
3. If your group is having difficulty with divisive doctrine, you may wish to go through the following exercise with them:
Take some time as a group to talk through Michael Wittmer's Three Categories of Belief (must believe, must not reject, should believe).
 - a) See the attached link for a helpful picture.
 - b) Draw a large circle, with a smaller circle inside it, and a smaller circle inside that.
 - c) The large circle is titled, "must believe"; the middle circle is titled, "must not reject"; and the inner circle titled, "should believe".
 - d) Ask your CG for doctrinal positions (baptizing believers, use of spiritual gifts, all humanity as sinful, etc.), and then ask them to place the idea inside one of the rings.
 - e) Ask each person why they think it belongs in that part of the circle and try to encourage dialogue as there is some room for disagreement on what is "must believe" doctrine.