

“SUMMER OF ROMANS” QUESTIONS

ROMANS 8

To prepare for CCP’s weekly Bible study, read the following passages and think through the questions below. **Questions printed in bold will be discussed at the meeting, other questions as time permits.**

ESV Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- 1) Have you ever been judged? How did it feel? Why do you think people dislike being judged?**
- 2) Verse 1 tells that there is no condemnation in Christ. How does it feel to be absolutely judgment free in God’s eyes? Does it make you want to sin more, or less?**
- 3) Verses 3-4 tell us that because of Jesus’s righteous acts, our own acts aren’t judged. Based on what we’ve talked about so far in Romans, why is that a good thing?

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- 4) In chapter 7, we were introduced to the idea of “life in the Spirit”, which is the opposite of “life in the flesh”. What are the results of life in the flesh?**
- 5) Why do you think “*the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God*”?
- 6) Do you agree or disagree with the statement in verse 8 that those “in the flesh” cannot please God? Why or why not?

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- 7) What is the qualification for being “in the Spirit” according to verse 9? How do we know if the Holy Spirit dwells in someone?
- 8) Whose “righteousness” is in view in verse 10? How does that help us to have life?**
- 9) What is the argument in verse 11? In your own words, summarize the argument.

10) When verse 11 says to “give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you,” do you think we are given life in the present or the future?

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

11) Verse 12 reminds us that we no longer owe anything to sinful flesh. Do you think the average Christian believes that to be true?

12) Verse 15 tells us that we have received “the Spirit of adoption”, so we can rightly call God our Father. What is your favorite thing about being a child of God?

13) What does verse 17 say happens because we are children of God?

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

14) According to verse 18, why shouldn't suffering bother us? On a scale of 1-10, how bothered are you by your suffering?

15) What do you think the “revealing of the sons of God” is in verse 19? Why does all of creation long for it?

16) How is the transition of the world from ‘subjected to futility’ (verse 19) to ‘the freedom of the glory of the children of God’ (verse 20) like childbirth?

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

17) Why do we, as Christians, groan about the state of our bodies (and the world). What is the purpose of this groaning?

18) When Paul talks about 'hope' in this passage, do you think this is a confident hope or a wishful hope? How does this affect us as we "wait with patience"?

19) According to this passage, why is it better for the Spirit to represent us to God than ourselves?

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died- more than that, who was raised- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

20) Verses 29-30 build a chain of events about the process of salvation. Do you think this is a complete list? Who is involved in each step? What else can we learn from this chain?

21) How does the chain in verses 29-30 help us to trust in the promise of verse 28?

22) Verse 31 asks, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Is there anyone in your life whose condemnation carries more weight than God?

23) How does knowing that God doesn't condemn us help us to deal with condemnation from people?

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

24) Verse 35 tells us that all of these blessings in this chapter are grounded in "the love of Christ." Why is this the very best place to start from?

25) Why do you think Paul chose the list he did in the second half of verse 35? How does the love of Christ help us to be "more than conquerors" against these things?

26) Verse 38-39 present several pairs of items. Write them down below. What do you notice about this list?

27) If those items are unable to separate us from Christ's love, then what *is* able to separate us from Christ's love?