

Sunday evening Community Group, Romans 12 & 13
February 16, 2020

The theme of Romans 12-15:13: A church shaped by grace.

The key to Reading Romans: "MISSIONal commUNITY"

The purpose of Romans: THE GLORY OF GOD seen in a united missionary church humbled together under grace.

Section A. (12:1-2): The headline appeal to be shaped by grace.

1. What has Paul taught about the kindness and mercy of God earlier in the letter (see especially 3:21-26, 5:1-11, 9:6-29 and 11:30-32)?
Try to sum this up in your own words. (12:1)

2. What is true worship? (12:1)

3. What does a transformed mind really want to do? (12:2)

Section B. (12:3-8): The appeal to serve together under grace in the church.

4. How ought we to think of ourselves, under grace? (12:3-5)

5. What seven examples does Paul give of gifts? (12:6-8)

Section C. (12:9-21): The appeal to love as people shaped by grace.

6. What theme brackets 12:9-21 (look at v. 9, v. 21, and also v. 17)?

7. Which of 12:9-21 seem to apply to how we behave in church, and which seem to refer to how we relate to those outside the church?

8. What picture does Paul paint in 12:9-21 of a church shaped by grace?

Section D. (13:1-7): The appeal to submit to authority as an expression of love under grace.

9. What is the main positive point Paul teaches in 13:1-7, and what are the main reasons he gives?

Section E. (13:8-10): The appeal to fulfill the law by love.

10. Why does Paul say we should love our fellow human beings? (13:8-10)

Section F. (13:11-14): The appeal to clothe yourselves with Christ.

11. How ought we to understand about the time in which we live? (13:11-12a)

12. How ought we to respond to living in this time? (13:12b-14)

13. What does it mean to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”? (13:14)

Think about:

1. How might we be tempted to use our gifts to achieve something different from the purposes for which they were given (e.g., teaching, but aiming to achieve some other goal than people learning)?

2. In what ways is the church in 12:9-21 counter-cultural? Look carefully and ask whether we show these counter-cultural ways of behaving. If not, how can we encourage one another to do so?

3. Can you think of examples of non-Christians taking notice of Christians because of any of the loving and good behaviors described in 12:9-21?

4. In what ways do we try to get around the challenge of submitting to authorities? (13:1-7)

5. How does the command to love help us to understand how to put the commandments into practice? (13:8-10)

6. In what ways can we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires”? (13:11-14)