

WEEK 25 | ROMANS 12:9-13

ROMANS | THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S POWER

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful to you as you consider this text.

- Galatians 5:13
- Ephesians 5:1
- Colossians 3:14-15

THEMES.

The overarching theme of Romans is the gospel—salvation through Jesus Christ. That is important to remember and keep in front of your group, because the letter is a theological masterpiece. But as with any work of art, each brush stroke's true beauty is best seen when the piece as a whole is realized. To that end, we will deal with many sub-themes, but remember that each one weaves together to give the “fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament.”¹

1. Paul's theme in this week's passage appears to call Christians to live a life that is honorable to God and marked by his love or described as a “living sacrifice” (12:1).
2. Gospel-transformed people reflect the love of God to one another, both emotionally and physically.
3. Gospel-transformed people are to be “constant in prayer,” receiving strength from God through the spiritual disciplines for living a life that is filled with genuine love and a hatred for evil.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. What does genuine love look like? How have you personally experienced genuine love in your life?
2. Why would Paul tell us to “cling to what is good,” and do you think he is referring to this in a spiritual or physical sense, or both?
3. What does it look like to be fervent/rejoice in tribulation during a time of grief and despair?
4. Could continuous prayer help us to live the lifestyle Paul is encouraging us to live?
5. Are we, comprised of our fleshly desires and self-absorbed nature, able to live this way with our own will/strength?
6. What are some practices/disciplines that can direct us toward this way of living?
7. Spend some time with your group praying for each other to receive strength from the Spirit to live out a life that is marked by genuine love as Paul has encouraged us to live.

PRAY TO CLOSE.

¹ John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's good news for the world*. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 19.