

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: AUGUST 12, 2025

Thanks to all who participated in our July 22nd sendoff for Jerry. It was special, although bitter/sweet. I really enjoyed how each person shared a Jerry story. The Holy Spirit was running overtime at our party. Jerry will be missed, but he is adjusting well in Texas in his daughter's home. Happy Trails Jerry!

I thank God for your faithfulness in staying with this study on "how you relate to others". We will be finishing up this topic, but I can't leave it without looking at some of the "one anothers" in the Bible. There are about 50 of these types of verses on how to relate to others. I believe it will well be worth our while.

ASSIGNMENT:

For the August 12th lesson we will take a look at a verse from Paul's epistle to the Roman church. Most of Paul's epistles have a theme of unity in the church and this is no different. Unity amongst believers honors God and jives with the second part of the greatest commandment, "love your neighbor as yourself".

The book of Romans is written to a church which Paul did not plant. Now, during a certain period, the Jews were expelled from Rome and 5 years later they were allowed to return. When the Jews returned they found the church had a distinctive Gentile flavor. This resulted in tension/conflict between the Jewish and Gentile Christians. It is in this environment which Paul pens this letter to the Roman church. It is arguably Paul's best explanation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul begins Romans by showing we are all, both Jews and Gentiles under God's judgement. In order to be right with God we all need to accept the gift of God's righteousness through faith in Jesus, not works. Then Paul tells the church to battle sin through the power of God's righteousness. Then there is short section about the role of Israel in God's plan for redemption. Paul ends the letter emphasizing how unity in God's church is the best way to glorify Him. A unity achieved by righteous relationships.

In the ESV bible, chapter 12 is divided into 3 main headings: A Living Sacrifice (12:1 – 12:2), Gifts of Grace (12:3 – 12:8) , and Marks of a True Christian (12:9 – 12:21). Please read Romans 12:9 – 12:21 and be ready to discuss the following questions.

QUESTIONS:

1. I count about 30 “Marks” of a true Christian in Romans 12:9 – 21. The group will be blessed if you pick one which you learned to do and one which you need to grow in, and share either/both with us.

Note: During prayer time, praise God for what you practice now, and pray for the one you would like to improve upon.

2. Romans 12:15, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”

2a. The word “rejoice” and it’s noun form “joy” is used over 500 times in the Bible. The word rejoice is usually directly related to God.

- What do you usually rejoice over?

- Do you see any difference in rejoicing over godly things or worldly things?

- Does knowing the Bible associates “rejoice” with God change the way you understand this passage?

2b. The word weep, is translated from the Greek word “klaiein”. According to the TDNA, weeping results from many different circumstances, some being: grief at parting, sorrow for dead, joy, remorse, guilt, sinful deeds, lack of understanding, empathy, seeing suffering.

- Understanding the context of this verse in Paul’s letter, why do you think Paul asks us to weep with those who weep?

- Share a time when you wept with someone who was weeping. Did that affect your relationship with that person?