

Romans

Chapter 12

In this chapter, Paul powerfully writes about who we are and how we are to live as Christians.

In verses 1-8 we are to be different than the rest of the world. We are to be transformed and be aware of God's will and to do it. When has that ever happened in your world?

Then he talks briefly about how we are each various parts of Christ's body. (He goes into much more detail in 1 Corinthians 12.) He also lists some of the gifts we have (also in 1 Cor. 12!) What gifts do you affirm for yourself? Is it easier to see the gifts in others in the Bible study?

In verses 9-13 he lists a number of things we are to do. Which of those do you do easily, which are harder?

In verses 14-21 we are to treat persecutors and enemies with love and care. This may be very hard for many of us to do.

He also tells us to do what we readily do – rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. In church we lift them as prayers – Joys & Concerns.

Chapter 13

In this chapter he continues to speak about how we should treat one another.

In verses 1-7 he writes of why we should obey the authorities. Why should we? Have you ever been involved in a protest or civil disobedience?

In verses 6 & 7 he writes about paying taxes. Did it remind you of my sermon on the question raised to Jesus about the legality of paying taxes to Caesar?

In verses 8-10 he writes of loving one another and how that alone fulfills the law. He notes the second half of the great commandment but does not note that Jesus said that nor about loving God. I wonder why not?

In verses 11-14 he offers an urgent appeal that the time is up. "Ready or Not!" like I preached on Sunday. He calls the Romans to wake up and to come out of the darkness into the light of Christ.

Where earlier in the last chapter he wrote and told them what to do as followers of Christ here he has a list of what they are not to do. Some of these are easier said than done.