

Growing in Christ Bible Study

Lesson Title: “Committed to His Church”
Romans 12: 3 - 16

Althea Rupert, Facilitator

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Growing in Christ Bible Study

Class Norms

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

Growing in Christ Bible Study

Class Description

- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the Bible addresses these issues.

Growing in Christ Bible Study

Class Scripture

Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)

12. To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.
13. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The Biblical Context

- Romans was an epistle (letter) written by Paul to the Christians in Rome.
- Paul wrote Romans because it was important for the Christians in Rome to have the gospel that Paul preached even if Paul was not able to travel to Rome.
- Roman Road to Salvation: Way of explaining the good news of salvation using verses from the Book of Romans.
 - **Who** needs salvation - Romans 3:10-12, 23
 - **Why** we need salvation - Romans 6:23
 - **How** God provides salvation - Romans 5:8
 - **How** we can receive salvation - Romans 10:9-10, 13
 - **What** are the results of salvation - Romans 5:1, Romans 8:1, Romans 8:38-39

Committed to His Church

Question

What are your first memories of church?

Romans 12: 3 ERV

³ God has given me a special gift, and that is why I have something to say to each one of you. Don't think that you are better than you really are. You must see yourself just as you are. Decide what you are by the faith God has given each of us.

Summary: Romans 12: 3

Humility is the key word in verse 3 when it states “Don’t think that you are better than you really are”. Paul is reminding us, even though God has blessed Christians with exceptional spiritual gifts that we are to remain humble.

Paul’s concern is that some people may use their spiritual gifts to promote themselves instead of promoting our Lord. He reminds us to maintain a proper perspective on the gifts that one has been given.

Scripture: Romans 12: 4 - 5 ERV

⁴ Each one of us has one body, and that body has many parts. These parts don't all do the same thing.

⁵ In the same way, we are many people, but in Christ we are all one body. We are the parts of that body, and each part belongs to all the others.

Question

How does the analogy of the human body help us better understand how the church should work?"

Summary: Romans 12: 4 - 5

- Christ formed His church so that we need each other in order for the church to function in a healthy way.
- We are all blessed with gifts and talents. The role of every member is important. No member should be ignored.
- Each person must determine what they can do best. Then ensure that they give their best to the Lord.

Scripture: Romans 12: 6 - 8 ERV

⁶ We all have different gifts. Each gift came because of the grace God gave us. Whoever has the gift of prophecy should use that gift in a way that fits the kind of faith they have.

⁷ Whoever has the gift of serving should serve. Whoever has the gift of teaching should teach.

⁸ Whoever has the gift of comforting others should do that. Whoever has the gift of giving to help others should give generously. Whoever has the gift of leading should work hard at it. Whoever has the gift of showing kindness to others should do it gladly.

Definition of Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are a power that God has given to believers to build up, inspire, and support his church.

Questions

1. How are you using your spiritual gifts?
 2. What obstacles often prevent us from using our gifts as God intended?
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Recommendation

Book: Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Author: Kenneth Cain Kinghorn

Scripture: Romans 12: 9 - 13 ERV

⁹ Your love must be real. Hate what is evil. Do only what is good.

¹⁰ Love each other in a way that makes you feel close like brothers and sisters. And give each other more honor than you give yourself.

¹¹ As you serve the Lord, work hard and don't be lazy. Be excited about serving him!

¹² Be happy because of the hope you have. Be patient when you have troubles. Pray all the time.

¹³ Share with God's people who need help. Look for people who need help and welcome them into your homes.

Summary: Romans 12: 9 - 13

In verses 9 – 13, Paul provides instructions for how Christians are to live with other Christians.

- “Your love must be real” refers to love of fellow Christians.
- We are to do good for everyone, but we are to give an extra portion of love and honor for those who are in the household of faith.
- Paul addresses the type of attitudes that Christians should have. He says that Christians should be excited about serving and happy because of the hope that we have.
- It is important for Christians to live the type of lives that could lead others to Christ.

Scripture: Romans 12: 14 ERV

¹⁴ Wish only good for those who treat you badly. Ask God to bless them, not curse them.

Summary

We are not to have a hateful attitude towards anyone, not even towards those who treat us badly. In addition, we are to love our enemies and show them the love that the Lord has shown us.

Questions

- How have you resolved issues with other members of the Christian family?
- What techniques or methods have you used to avoid conflicts with other Christians?

Scripture: Romans 12: 15 - 16 ERV

¹⁵ When others are happy, you should be happy with them. And when others are sad, you should be sad too.

¹⁶ Live together in peace with each other. Don't be proud, but be willing to be friends with people who are not important to others. Don't think of yourself as smarter than everyone else.

Summary: Romans 12: 15 - 16

- Share in others joys and sorrows – do not let other believers go through ups and downs alone.
- Once again, Paul challenges Christians to remain humble. Humility is key to harmony within the Christian fellowship.

GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION:

How will you live out your commitment to Christ's church this week?

- **Pray for your church.** Each day this week, pray for a different group of people, staff member, or ministry at your church.
- **Use your gifts.** Identify the spiritual gift(s) God has given you and get busy using them to minister, strengthen, and support your church.
- **Encourage others.** As the body of Christ, we have a responsibility for each other. If you know a fellow believer who is either not connected to a local church or is not using his or her spiritual gifts, lovingly encourage this person to carry out his or her role in the body of Christ.

Final Thoughts

- We are to love that which Christ loves, and that includes His bride, the church.
- All members of the body of Christ are important for the church to function properly.
- Christ gave each one of us special gifts to use in support of His church.
- We are to do good for everyone, but give an extra portion of love and honor for those who are in the household of faith.

Resources

- Romans 12:3-16
- Romans 3:10-12, 23
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 10:9-10, 13
- Romans 5:1, Romans 8:1, Romans 8:38-39

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Next Week, September 13, 2020

- **Title:** Commitment of Prayer
- **Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-5,13-15
- **Question:** What is your favorite way to communicate?

God Bless You!