

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

When in Romans LAW & GRACE - Week of September 1

## Introduction

Do you ever feel like you're in the middle of a hurricane with troubles on all fronts surging against you and your family? Just when you think there may be a reprieve ahead, another torrent of wind and waves strike. You are not alone. From the beginning, men and women who wanted to be faithful to the Lord have faced suffering, pain, and hardship. Think of Job. Think of the apostles and the early church. In fact, often the more faithful we want to be, availing ourselves to serve Christ and his Kingdom, the more intense the trials that come our way. If this is you and your family today, be encouraged. The Lord is in control.

It is easy to question – 'why is this happening? ... I don't deserve this'. But such thinking can defeat us and cause us to want to give up. The apostle Paul says that in the body of Christ we belong to each other. When one person suffers, all suffer. When hardship hits we must be there for one another and support one another with love, encouragement, and prayers of intercession. The Lord did not say following him would be easy. He said we must pick up our cross daily and deny self. He said in this world we would have trouble. But he also said that he would never leave us or forsake us.

## Background

Paul had a heart for believers to be all-in when it came to living a life of faith. He pleads with brothers and sisters to give their bodies as a living and holy sacrifice and to allow God to transform their lives by a radical change on the inside. One way we change the way we think is by ceasing to copy the behaviors of this world. And how do we do that? By asking (and allowing) the Lord to replace old behavior with new behavior and replacing our old way of thinking with a new way of thinking. The result – we will begin to understand God's will for your lives, which is good, pleasing and perfect.

## Read Romans 12:1-13

### 1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Paul says, "Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give you each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are" (v3a). What are some results of thinking too highly of ourselves? How can we learn to be honest with ourselves?

What does it mean to measure ourselves by the faith God has given us? (see vv 3b, 4-5).

### 2. What are you going to do about it?

In his grace, God's Spirit equips each of us to do certain things well. Below are some of the special abilities Paul mentions in vv 6-8. Beside each gift write down how we are to live into these gifts –

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| The ability to prophecy     | _____ |
| The gift of serving others  | _____ |
| Teaching                    | _____ |
| The gift of encouraging     | _____ |
| The gift of generosity      | _____ |
| Gifts of leadership         | _____ |
| A gift for showing kindness | _____ |

On a scale of 1 to 5 how well are your living into the gift(s) the Holy Spirit has given you? Are you enjoying the gift(s) the Lord has given you?

### 3. How can we help you?

Understanding the special ability the Holy Spirit has given you is a good thing. To know your gifting – to claim it and utilize it within the Church – is vital for the Body of Christ to function well. It is not prideful to know the Lord's call and gifting over your life and then joyfully and confidently live into it. You know your gift is from God and for his glory! (see Romans 11:36). It is, however, prideful to hide the gift entrusted to you like the unfaithful servant who hid his talent (Luke 19:11-27 see also Matthew 25:24-26). Why? Because by burying it, you are not humbly acknowledging that God expects a return on what *He* gives. Also, it is prideful to hoard the Lord's gifting or utilize it in the wrong way. Christ gives each of us gifts for the building up of his Church – not for the propping up of our egos or fame.

## In Closing

It has been said, justice is getting exactly what you deserve. Mercy is getting some of what you deserve. Grace is getting none of what you deserve. Lord, thank you for your amazing grace! God's grace is demonstrated through his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Spend time in prayer and reflection. Ask the Lord to enable you to surrender to his grace. He is always working for you, your family, the situation you have found yourself in. Trust him. Entrust every care to him. Continue to use the gifts he has given you within the life of his church. And resolve to *not* give up.

*"But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless" (1 Corinthians 15:57-58).*

# When in Romans LAW & GRACE

Text: Romans 12:1-13

## PLAIN TRUTH

The purpose of the law is to \_\_\_\_\_ us and grace to \_\_\_\_\_ us in \_\_\_\_\_ God and our neighbor.

1. We must FREELY \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves as an act of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. By \_\_\_\_\_ you are \_\_\_\_\_ and by \_\_\_\_\_ on your gifts they \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Genuine \_\_\_\_\_ of God and neighbor \_\_\_\_\_ us to serve.

## One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

September 1: Job 40:1-42:17, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Psalm 45:1-17, Proverbs 22:14  
September 2: Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Psalm 46:1-11, Proverbs 22:15  
September 3: Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12, 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7, Psalm 47:1-9, Proverbs 22:16  
September 4: Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18, 2 Corinthians 7:8-16, Psalm 48:1-14, Prov. 22:17-19  
September 5: Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, Ps. 49:1-20, Prov. 22:20-21  
September 6: Song of Solomon 1:1-4:16, 2 Cor. 8:16-24, Ps. 50:1-23, Prov. 22:22-23  
September 7: Song of Solomon 5:1-8:14, 2 Cor. 9:1-15, Psalm 51:1-19, Prov. 22:24-25



Scan the QR code to begin praying over the area you may serve in at Christ Church or one of our strategic partners.

September 1, 2024