

Wrestling with Romans
Romans 13
Discussion Guide, May 16, 2021

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. - Romans 12:1

- Did you begin to develop any new patterns this past week in order to “be transformed?”
 - o What old (but good) patterns did you continue in?

OPEN:

- What unique insight or truth stood out to you most from this past Sunday's sermon?

READ and ASK: Romans 13

- What is the context being discussed around the subject of submitting to governing authorities?
 - o Are there times not to submit to governing authorities? When? (see Acts 5:27-32)
 - o What is the difference between submitting to authorities and unconditionally obeying them?
 - o How can our conduct in relationship to governing authorities help or hinder our witness?
- How does Paul's concept of love differ from today's popular notion of love?
- How does love fulfill all of the other commandments?
 - o What specific acts of love can Christians show to friends, family, neighbors and strangers?
- What deeds of darkness practiced in our world today sometimes attract and seduce Christians?

APPLY:

- How does Paul's urgency in verse 11 influence your perspective on life?
 - o How does it challenge the way you conduct yourself on a daily basis?

- What application does verse 14 bring to your life? How would your life be difference if you consciously tried to “wear” Jesus?
 - o In what practical ways can a person clothe themselves with Jesus instead of pursuing evil desires?

- NEXT STEP(S):
 - o What specific gesture of love or kindness can you use to build a relationship this week?
 - o When can you take time this week to identify habits or tendencies in your life that hinder your relationship with the Lord?

Memory Work:

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. - Romans 13:8