

Romans: Part I
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Romans 1:1-17
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Romans is a book we kind of know the tune of, but sometimes miss what the song is about

What talks about making us one people despite our differences has often been used to divide people.

*What themes, topics, and verses do you think of when Romans comes to mind? What preconceptions do you have?

*Where have you seen verses in Romans be used to fuel arguments?

Romans could be a roadmap for walking with God in complicated days

Read and discuss Romans 1:1-15 (NIV)

I Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David,⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.⁹ God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you¹⁰ in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

*What do we learn about Paul's purpose for his letter in these verses? What do we know about history that might inform us?

**The song of Romans is this: Only the Gospel has power to change things, repair things, and save people
And this: All who believe have been made one in Christ – Jews, Gentiles, Everyone**

Read and discuss Romans 1:16-17(NIV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

*What are some of the ways we live as if ashamed of the Gospel? How does power play into that?

*Why is living in oneness so important?

*Why do we so quickly eject when we disagree? Are there ways you find yourself looking for a team that just agrees with you?

Paul is convinced that the Gospel is not just about rescue after death, but about LIFE right now

The Christian faith is about being saved by faith and living by faith.

*What is righteousness by faith about? Living by faith?

*Where do you want to lean in to the song of Romans in the next few months?