

Booklet Six

The Christian Live

(Transforming Power of the Gospel)

<i>August 19th</i>	<i>Romans 12:1-8</i>	<i>Transformed</i>
<i>August 26th</i>	<i>Romans 12:9-21</i>	<i>Love Does</i>
<i>September 2nd</i>	<i>Romans 13:1-14</i>	<i>Life of Love</i>

"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. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2



UNASHAMED

Of The Good News Of Jesus Christ

Romans 12:1-8

Transformed

In view of everything in life coming from Him and through Him to, for Him. God encourages us by his mercies to present our bodies as living sacrifices and it IS worship. By the process of renewing our mind we may prove what the perfect will of God is. When we become transformed we need to place our self in a posture of humility. When we are surrendered to God and step into our role as part of a bigger picture than ourselves. We really see what it means to become members of one another, without jealousy or envy. **This is our ultimate joy.**

1. Verses 1 and 2 set the theme for the next 3 chapters of Romans which is the transforming power of the gospel in the believer's life. Why is the "view" of God's mercy so important in understanding our transformation?
2. How does verse 1 define worship? How is this different than many perceptions of what worship is? How does the idea of offering our "bodies as living sacrifices" change our understanding of worship?
3. In verse 2, we are told that God's purpose in our salvation is to bring about transformation. How would you define transformation? How is Paul defining transformation in verse 2? How is our thinking (mind) and behavior connected? What is the place of God's will in our transformation?
4. In verse 3, Paul reminds us that this transformation in our lives is by grace. Why is this reminder so important? How is the knowledge of grace in our lives vital not only for salvation but, also, transformed living in the gospel?
5. In verses 3-8, we are given concrete examples of what a transformed life of worship in Jesus looks like. Why is this teaching important in our new lives with Jesus? What would happen if we did not have this specific and practical teaching in our lives?
6. The first area addressed is our relationship with others. Why is humility the most important quality in these relationships? How would you define humility based on verse 3? Share examples of how you have seen humility exhibited in people's lives? Why is humility so important for the church community?
7. In verse 4-8, Paul begins to develop the idea of the Church as a body. How is this metaphor helpful in our understanding of the church?
8. Why is the discussion of our individual gifts within the church solely based upon the "grace given to each of us"? How does this change the way we view our gifts and others gifts?
9. The encouragement given in these verses is to use the gifts we have been given. Do you know the gift of grace God has given you for the benefit of others in the body? If you don't know your gifts how will you discover your gifts? If you do know your gifts, how are you using your gifts?

Romans 12:9-21

Love Does

If you were to see God as revealed in the good news of Jesus, in its most basic form, it would be love. God is love. And Paul says elsewhere in his letter to Corinth that if you take love out of the gospel you get a “resounding or a clanging cymbal”. The Gospel is basically nothing without love. Love is the substance of all that God is and all that He is doing in those who place their faith in Him. The opening statement of the letter to the Romans says that “the Gospel of God is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe”. Paul argues in Romans 12 that this new righteous life we possess by faith in Jesus is ultimately a life of love. All the deep theology of our salvation (justification, sanctification, glorification) has one result. A new life of love with God and others both now and for all of eternity. Love is the fruit of the abiding life with Jesus!

1. In the previous verses of chapter 12 Paul is giving practical instructions for living the new transformed life of worship in Jesus. This new life is part of a new community called the church. Why is love an essential ingredient to this community? What would happen if you took love out of the teaching of the gospel? How would you define love based on the gospel?
2. Why must love be sincere? What does it mean to hate evil and cling to good? How does this relate to love for God and others?
3. What is the connection between passion (zeal, spiritual fervor) and the meaning of love for God in our service to Him?
4. In verse 12-21, we are told a list of things we are to do in love. Why is doing such an important part of love? What if we stated our love for God, but never did these things listed? Would it be sincere love?
5. Each of the things listed carry a significant personal cost to them. What is the cost in doing these things? What provides the power, strength, ability to do these things (hint: it’s not us alone-John 15)? What is the blessing of obedience in doing the things listed?
6. Examine your life in light of the life of love as described in these verses. How many of these activities are evident in your schedule in your day and reflected how you spend your money? Instead of guilt or shame or pride and conceit what would be a better response to examining our lives in light of these verses? How did Jesus respond to Zacchaeus who examined his life and responded to Jesus life of love (Luke 19:1-10)?
7. Verse 17-21, describe one of the great barriers for people to experience the life of love, such as resentments and unforgiveness towards others. What is the basis for our forgiveness and love for those who do wrong against us (v.19)? How does trust in God’s goodness and justice give us freedom to love? How does our love in action speak to the goodness of God and overcome evil in our world?

Romans 13:1-14

Life of love

We tend to think about love in only certain relationships. Most of our cultures movies, books, and ideals on love are in a romantic relationship. The Bible applies love to more than this. Because God is the purest definition of love He challenges our misguided assumptions on love which tend to be self-centered and focus on our personal needs and desires. The transforming work of the gospel in our lives opens our lives to a life of love in every area of life. Jesus summed up the whole law (O.T) as love for God and love for our neighbor. The Pharisees were concerned about who our neighbor is. Their assumption was that there were some people who were just not lovable. Jesus gave them the story of the good Samaritan to challenge their misguided categories of who was lovable. Here, in Romans 13, Paul does something similar. He busts our categories of who deserves our love and invites us into the radical love of God. Even ruthless governing authorities are to be the recipients of our love as new people in Jesus. These are radical words from the persecuted Paul who was beaten, jailed, and abused by this very government whom he instructs the early church to “be subject to and pay taxes” to show the full extent of the power of the gospel to birth love in our hearts even to those who would harm us. In the gospel we have no debt except the “continuing debt to love one another”. This is why God has saved us; so that we might live a life of love with God and with others!

1. In verse 1-7, we are given a rationale for loving those in authority over us in government. Why is it important for our love to be evident to those in government even if we do not agree with their policies? How is God’s sovereignty evident in those who are in power (v.2, 4)? What are the practical ways we live out this love (v.6-7)?
2. Why does Paul frame love for others as a debt? How does love fulfill all the commandments of God? The idea of “love does no harm” (v.10) is from God that resonates with people. What are the practical implications of this way of life?
3. Verses 11-14 are a warning that the life of love is not natural rather supernatural, meaning it comes from God and not ourselves. Why is this important to understand?
4. We have a tendency towards slumber and complacency in our lives. Verse 11 says “wake up!”. What does this look like in our lives, to “wake up to the life of love”?
5. The reference to our “salvation is nearer now than when we first believed” is a reference to Jesus return. How does this expectancy of Jesus return influence the way we live now?
6. Notice the motivation for our behavior of love rather than harm (v.12). How is this different than the Law? How does God’s love change the way we think about our behavior?
7. The list of sins in verse 13 are contrary to God’s love. How does the metaphor of being clothed with Jesus Christ change our desires and behaviors?
8. Every day we wake up and we need to be reminded who we belong to and how we live as God’s children, full of God’s Spirit. Share ways that God reminds us of these truths?