



Term 4, 2022

Suggested Questions



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STUDY 9 - ROMANS 6:1-14

Opening Question

All Christians know they should not sin. Why then do we find it so hard to obey God?

1 OBJECTION: 'SHALL WE GO ON SINNING, SO THAT GRACE MAY INCREASE?'

- 1) Why does the question in 6:1 arise? Can you put it in your own words?

2 SUMMARY ANSWER: NO! WE DIED TO SIN SO, HOW CAN WE GO ON SINNING?

- 2) What is Paul's immediate answer? What questions does his answer raise for us?

3-5 WE HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH CHRIST IN HIS DEATH AND WILL BE UNITED WITH HIM IN HIS RESURRECTION, SO THAT WE MAY LIVE NEW LIVES

- 3) What has taken place, in the past, in the lives of Christians (i.e. those who have been baptised into Christ Jesus)? What will happen to Christians in the future?
- 4) What, therefore, is God's intention for His people?
- 5) Why shouldn't we go on sinning?

6-11 AS THOSE WHO ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST, WE ARE DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD

- 6) What does Paul mean when he says our ‘old self was crucified with Him’? (Think back to 5:12-21.)
- 7) What was God’s intention in doing this? When Paul says ‘we should no longer serve sin’ what can he not mean? What does he mean?
- 8) NB: The word translated as ‘freed’ in verse 7 could also be translated as ‘justified.’ How are we ‘justified from sin’?
- 9) How does Jesus’ resurrection give us confidence that we have truly ‘died to sin’ and will definitely be raised?
- 10) How are we to view ourselves? And why?
- 11) Again, why shouldn’t we go on sinning?

12-14 THEREFORE, SERVE GOD, YOUR NEW MASTER

- 12) In the light of verses 1-11, how do these instructions make sense?
- 13) How do verses 1-11 encourage us to fight against sin?

14) For the following two questions, consider the two areas of speech and how we use our gifts. Try to think as practically and specifically as possible.

a) In what sense can we offer the parts of our body to sin?

b) In what sense should we offer ourselves to God?

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STUDY 10 - ROMANS 6:15-7:6

Opening Questions

Summarise Paul's answer, in 6:1-14, as to why the Christian shouldn't go on sinning.

15 QUESTION: 'SHALL WE SIN BECAUSE WE ARE NOT UNDER LAW BUT UNDER GRACE?'

- 1) Why might the fact that we are 'under grace' lead someone to think that he could go on sinning? Put Paul's question in your own words.

16 ANSWER: YOU MUST NOT SIN! YOU ARE SLAVES TO THE MASTER YOU OBEY – EITHER SIN OR RIGHTEOUSNESS

- 2) Explain Paul's illustration in verse 16.
- 3) If we persist in sinning wilfully, what does that say about us?
- 4) 'I don't want to be a Christian, because I want to be free to do what I want.' How would Paul respond.

20-23 THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING A SLAVE TO SIN OR TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

- 5) Paul draws a contrast between two ways of life – what are they? What is each like? To what does each lead?

6) How does this contrast motivate us to obey God?

7:1-6 YOU ARE NOT UNDER LAW, SINCE YOU DIED WITH CHRIST

(NB: Paul is now coming back to explain how it is that Christians are no longer under the Law (6:15).)

7) What is the point of Paul's illustration from marriage?

8) How have we been released from the authority of the Law?

9) Contrast the life lived under the Law with the life that belongs to Christ.

STUDY 11 - ROMANS 7:7-25

Opening Question

What are our normal reactions to ongoing sin in our lives?

7-13 THE LAWS HOWS SIN TO BE SIN, BUT THE LAW ITSELF IS GOOD

- 1) The question in 7:7, 'Is the Law sin?', seems unexpected. Why might it arise from Paul's teaching so far? (Look at 5:20; 6:14; 6:22; 7:6) Why does the question matter? And why must Paul refute it?
- 2) How does Paul describe the relationship between the Law and sin?
 - a) In what sense is Paul using the word 'sin'?
- 3) What effect does the Law have on sin?
 - a) Paul is here giving a personal testimony: to what period is he referring? Describe what happened to him. Think of another example apart from coveting.
 - b) What conclusions does Paul draw from his experience? And why?
- 4) So, is the Law sin? Summarise Paul's answer.

14-25 CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE: SLAVERY TO TWO MASTERS

- 1) Why do you think verse 14 has caused so much trouble for Christians over the years? What questions does it force us to ask, in the light of Paul's teaching so far?
 - a) Earlier on, Paul said that Christians have been freed from sin (6:7, 18 and 22), but now he says he is 'sold as a slave to sin' (7:14). How is this possible, according to Paul?
- 2) How does Paul describe his present experience as a Christian?
 - a) Is our experience anything like his? Put his experience into your own words.
 - b) What implications does he draw from his experience? Where does the problem lie?
 - c) What are Paul's observations in verses 21-23??
 - d) What is his reaction? Is his cry in verse 24 hopeless? Why/why not?
 - e) What is his conclusion?
- 3) What should be our expectations, regarding sin in our Christian lives?
 - a) Many Christian writers describe the way we may live lives that are constantly victorious over sin. How does this contrast with Paul's experience? How would Paul react to such teaching?

b) A young Christian writes to you in distress: 'I thought I was a Christian, but I'm not sure any more. Over the weekend I saw some old friends and before I knew it, I was back into all my old habits. Someone has told me that my faith was obviously not real. I don't know what to think. Please help!' How would you reply?

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STUDY 12 - ROMANS 8:1-17

Opening Question

Think of the nicest person you know who is not a Christian. What are the qualities of this person? Think of a non-Christian who, from the way he lives, is clearly not a Christian. What is this person like?

1-4 CHRISTIANS ARE FREE FROM CONDEMNATION

- 1) The ‘therefore’ in verse 1 suggests that Paul has reached a conclusion. What is he concluding?
- 2) Verses 1 and 2 tell us that we are not condemned because we have been set free – how have we been set free?
- 3) What different things can we thank Jesus for in these verses?

5-11 CHRISTIANS HAVE NEW MINDS NOW AND, IN THE FUTURE, WILL HAVE NEW BODIES TOO

- 4) What are the hallmarks of those who ‘live according to the flesh’?
 - a) What is their mindset? What is their relationship to God?
 - b) What are the implications of this teaching for our non-Christian friends? For those who are ‘nice’ and those who have openly sinful lifestyles? What should/shouldn’t we say to them? How does God see them? How will this affect our prayers for them?

5) What are the hallmarks of those who ‘live according to the spirit’?

a) What is their mindset? What is their relationship to God?

6) What does this passage teach us about the Holy Spirit?

a) Who is He? Do we think of Him in this way?

b) What does He do?

c) Who has the Spirit and who does not?

12-17 CHRISTIANS, IF GENUINE, HAVE A CERTAIN GLORIOUS FUTURE

7) What are the implications, for the believer, of having the Spirit?
(See also the previous group of questions.)

a) Why is verse 11 such good news? (Remember 7:14-24.)

b) What obligation is there for those who have the Spirit?

What is involved in ‘going on putting to death the misdeeds of the body’? Is this our attitude to the sin in our lives? What needs to change? How can we help one another?

c) List the amazing privileges that are ours when we have the Spirit.

8) How does this passage give assurance to the Christian who is struggling against sin?

9) How does this passage teach us to:

a) encourage one another?

b) warn one another?

c) praise God?

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STUDY 13 - ROMANS 8:17-30

Opening Question

As we go through this study, bear in mind these three characters: *Colin the conservationist* sees that God's world is in a mess and thinks that Christians should be giving much of their time to preserving it. *Harry the healer* says that God loves us and wants the best for us, and that therefore we can ask Him to heal us today, in the confident expectation that He will do so. *Demoralised Deborah* is a Christian going through the mill. Her job is really stressful and her sister has been unwell for a long time. She is also aware that she keeps letting God down because, although she genuinely tries not to sin, she keeps giving in to temptation.

What encouragement could you give Deborah, from what we have seen in 8:1-17? What could you tell her about the future? How about the present?

17-18 GOD'S SUFFERING CHILDREN HAVE AN INCOMPARABLY GLORIOUS FUTURE

- 1) What is Paul's perspective on the present, and on the future, for Christians?
 - a) What kind of suffering is Paul likely to have in mind, from this context? And from the context of chapters 6–8?

19-22 CREATION GROANS, WAITING FOR ITS FUTURE LIBERATION FROM DECAY

- 2) According to Paul, what will life in this world entail? And why?

3) How could you use these verses to speak to Colin? Should we devote ourselves to conservation?

a) Is there, then, no hope for our world?

b) Why does Paul use the image of childbirth? How does it make his point?

23-25 CHRISTIANS ALSO GROAN, IN HOPE, UNTIL THE FUTURE REDEMPTION OF THEIR BODIES

4) How does the experience of Christians relate to the experience of creation?

5) What does Paul teach us about our present and our future?

a) In the light of these things, what should be our present perspective?

6) How could you use these verses to speak to Harry? What does Harry not understand?

a) How should Paul's teaching here help Deborah? And us?

26-30 WE HAVE THE SPIRIT TO INTERCEDE FOR US, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL TO GLORIFY US IN THE FUTURE

7) How does God help us in the present? Why do we not know, sometimes, what to pray for?

a) From these verses, what exactly does the Holy Spirit do in our lives?

8) Colin, Harry and Deborah all leap on verse 28. Colin says that God will work to enable him to preserve endangered species. Harry says that this verse means that no matter what we go through, God will make things right very soon. Deborah, though, is discouraged because nothing seems to be working for her good at the moment. Where are our three friends going wrong?

a) What does Paul mean by our 'good' in verse 28? What can he not mean? Why not? How does the rest of verse 28 help?

b) What is God's 'purpose' (or His will, v. 27)? What do verses 29-30 tell us? (Leader: In our next study we will look more closely at the detail of v. 30. Don't get caught up with it now!)

c) In what way do we see, again, that Jesus is at the centre of God's plans? How does this further encourage us in our sufferings?

9) What do verses 28-30 tell us about the sufferings that we face in the present? How is our usual perspective different from Paul's?

a) What sufferings are we, in this study group, facing at the moment? How can we pray for them in the light of this passage?

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STUDY 14 - ROMANS 8:28-39

Opening Question

The issue in this study is: how we can know for certain that the future God has promised will actually materialise. What encouragement does verse 28 give us?

28-30 GOD'S PLAN TO GLORIFY US AND JESUS IS UNSTOPPABLE

- 1) How do we know that God's plan, to glorify us eventually, will succeed?
 - a) How does Paul show that God's plan is unstoppable?
 - b) What different things in verses 29-30 emphasise this certainty?
 - c) Where are we in the chain of events? How does this encourage us?
 - d) Why is it ironic that predestination causes Christians so much anxiety?
- 2) How does this description of God differ from how we may imagine Him to be when we are suffering?

31-39 OUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD: NO-ONE CAN OPPOSE HIM

- 3) 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (v. 31)
 - a) How do we know that God is for us?
- 4) What kind of opposition does Paul suggest, in verses 33-34, we may fear? Why does he adopt the language of accusation and condemnation?
 - a) What is the basis for Paul's confidence that we can be neither accused nor condemned? Do we have this confidence? How can we help one another in this area?
- 5) Why does the question in verse 35 arise?
 - a) Paul names some potential enemies. Which ones are real for us now and how do they manifest themselves? How do we suspect they may manifest themselves in the future?
 - b) Is Paul saying that we will not face any enemies?
 - c) Look up Psalm 44, from which Paul quotes. Why does he quote from this psalm?
 - d) How can we learn from the attitude of God's people in this psalm?
 - e) How does Paul himself answer the question in verse 35?
 - f) How do verses 38-39 summarise the last four chapters?
- 6) What does Paul teach us about having a correct perspective in the face of suffering?

- a) What will happen if we look at ourselves and at our present circumstances?
 - b) What will happen if we look to God and to the future?
- 7) Think back to the first question. Explain why each of these things is unable to prevent us from getting to heaven.

Questions taken from Bishopsgate, St Helen's. "Read Mark Learn: Romans: A Small Group Bible Study" (studies 1-8). Christian Focus Publications. Kindle Edition.

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Group Preparation Questions

Optional questions to help you think through the passage **before** your Growth Group time.

STUDY 9 Romans 6:1-14

6:1-11

1. Why does the question arise in verse 1? Write it in your own words.
2. What has happened to Christians in the past?
3. What will happen to Christians in the future?
4. What is God's intention for His people Jesus' mission in this chapter?

6:12-14

5. How do these instructions make sense, in the light of verses 1-11?

STUDY 10 Romans 6:15–7:6

6:15-23

1. How is the question of verse 15 different from the question in 6:1?
2. If we refuse to obey God in one area of our lives, what does that say about us?
3. What does Paul say has happened to the Christian?
4. How does Paul motivate us to obey God?

7:1-6

5. What is the point of Paul's illustration from marriage?
6. Contrast the life lived under the Law with the life that belongs to Christ.

STUDY 11 Romans 7:7-25

1. Why is the question in 7:7 there?
2. Why does it matter?
3. How do the Law and sin relate to each other?
4. How is Paul struggling in verses 1-25? Why?
5. What lessons does this passage teach us about the Christian life?

STUDY 12 Romans 8:1-17

1. To what does the 'therefore' in verse 1 refer?
2. Explain, in your own words, why there is 'no condemnation'.
3. What do verses 5-11 tell us about:
 - 3.1. non-Christians?
 - 3.2. Christians?
4. What does this passage teach us about the Holy Spirit, who He is and what He does? What reassurance is there here for the Christian who is frustrated because he or she can't stop sinning? (cf. 7:24)

STUDY 13 Romans 8:17-30

1. What are 'our present sufferings' (v. 18)?
2. How is our experience related to that of creation?
3. What should our perspective be on:
 - 3.1. the present?
 - 3.2. the future?
4. How does God help us now?
5. What is God's will for Christians?

STUDY 14 Romans 8:28-39

1. From verses 29-30 what do we learn about God's purpose?
2. How does Paul show that God's plan is unstoppable?
3. How does Paul show that God is for us (v. 31)?
4. Why can the Christian have such confidence that God will complete His plan?
5. Read Psalm 44, from which Paul quotes in verse 36. What can we learn from the attitude of the people in the psalm?
6. What does this passage teach us about the perspective that Christians should have in the face of suffering?

*Study outline and Preparation questions taken from
"Read Mark Learn: Romans: A Small Group Bible
Study" St Helen's Church, Bishopsgate, Christian
Focus Publications (1999).*