

Romans L40 – Lessons 33-39 Study Summary

Lesson 33 – Romans 31:1-14

Submit to Authority and Let Love Fulfill the Law

- Q1, 2 – Governments, whether good or bad, are put in place by God. Christians are commanded to obey governing authorities as an act of obedience to God, for they provide structure, law, and order. Christians are advised to live good lives so as not to fear punishment for wrongdoing.
- Q4 – In spite of differing opinions and politics, Christians are told to both submit and be in subjection to the government. We are to pay our taxes and render honor and respect to people in leadership. While there are exceptions, such as obeying God instead of man when laws conflict, we are to give “to Caesar that which belongs to Caesar” (Jesus speaking).
- Q6 – Embracing ‘love’ fulfills God’s Law. When we love others, we don’t intentionally harm them by our actions (adultery, murder, coveting, among other things).

Lesson 34 – Romans 14:1-12

Accept the Uniqueness of Faith Expressions

- Q1 – There are many Christian denominations in the world, most of which broke away from another church in disagreement over doctrine, sacraments, mission, or lifestyle. Major modern issues of division relate to ordaining women or LGBTQ individuals. A long-standing division is whether salvation comes as a result of man’s free choice to seek it in response to God’s offer (Arminianism) versus God’s Sovereignty in simply choosing the people (Calvinism).
- Q2 – A case can be made from the Bible to eat every kind of food (plants and animals) or to just be a vegetarian who rejects eating meat. Both sides are right; people just need to be convinced in their own minds!
- Q3, 4 – Paul acknowledges that disagreements will crop up between believers. He counsels not to judge or despise the individual(s) with whom we disagree.
- Q8,9 – Paul says every servant is accountable to his/her own Master. Therefore, we should heed the teaching that everyone must give an account of him/herself before God someday!

Lesson 35 – Romans 14:13-23

Live By Your Convictions, yet Considerately for Others

- Q1 – Jewish animal sacrifices became food for the priests. Idol animal sacrifices made their way to the local market place for sale to anyone. So, when Christians outside of Israel fellowshiped and ate meat, there was a good chance it was meat previously sacrificed to idols --- and some were greatly offended. Paul commented that it didn’t make any difference (to him).
- Q2, 3 – Jewish unclean food laws forbid eating pigs, rabbits, lizards, shellfish, rats, snakes, eagles, and vultures, among many other animals. To address the overriding meat conflict, Paul set forth a key truth: The Kingdom of God is NOT about food and drink, but about righteousness and joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. The challenge to believers is to pursue what makes for peace!
- Q4, 5 – Where do my neighbor’s rights end --- and my rights begin (if I want to eat meat...)?! Paul says Christians should willingly subjugate their own rights --- if pursuing them damages the faith of the other believer (e.g., eating meat, drinking wine, etc...). Don’t destroy faith on the basis of food! This sacrificial act of yielding to others (weaker in faith) is considered serving Jesus Christ in a way that is acceptable to both God and men.
- Q6, 7 – Paul insists that though we are to be considerate of others, we should also go through life living by our convictions --- things we’ve settled between God and ourselves. We should have no reason to feel convicted by our actions, and anything that doesn’t proceed from faith is sin!

Lesson 36 – Romans 15:1-13

Follow Christ’s Example: Build Each Other Up!

- Q1, 2 – Paul recognizes that churches are filled with people, some being strong in faith, and others being weak. He cautions the strong NOT to insist on their own ways, but to ‘bear with’ the challenges of the weak. Our sacrificial approach on their behalf should be to build them up in the faith.

Q3 – God’s Word gives Christians hope. Enduring --- not quitting, not giving up --- develops hope.

Q5, 6 – Christian communities welcome many different people into their churches. These new people will often join us with established perspectives that cause friction. Therefore, we must ever work at achieving unity and harmony in God’s grace so that our worship of God is ‘acceptable.’

Q8 – God is the God of Hope. He desires to fill us with abundant hope, joy, peace, and Holy Spirit-power!

Lesson 37 – Romans 15:14-33

Paul: Devoted to the Ministry to Gentiles

Q2 – Paul considers his calling to be the Apostle to the Gentiles, with a mission to present them to God fully sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

Q3 – Paul sets the standard for Christian testimonies: “I will not speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me.” Testimonies are not to glorify us...but to glorify God!

Q4, 5 – Paul’s ambition was to be a missionary where no one had ever gone before. Still, he was interested in visiting the church at Rome, but God had not opened that door for him yet. He recognized that when God closes one door (direction in life), He opens another.

Q7 – A key concept of scripture is tithing. Paul expands the thought here that we who are blessed by the spiritual leadership of others are therefore obligated to provide for their material needs. Tithing supports our ministers, church expenses, and church services in the community.

Lesson 38 – Romans 16:1-16

Roll Call of Saint: Paul’s Greeting

Q1 – Phoebe is an important character in the New Testament. She was a woman of wealth, a Patron who helped fund Paul’s missionary journeys. She also served as a deacon(ness), or church leader, in her church. Deacons must be dignified, scripturally knowledgeable, and tested and proven blameless before others to be qualified for leadership.

Q2-4 – Aquila and Priscilla were Jews Paul met at Corinth who became his tentmaking and ministry colleagues. They helped train Apollos, and they established a church in their home in Ephesus.

Q5-8 – Citing so many individuals, we realize that Paul understood he had a team of supporters behind his evangelistic endeavors. He counted on them in so many ways. This is the way God works. The Christian faith is a Body, a community, even if it seems in the hands of a few key leaders. Believers must fulfill their Spirit-given gifts for the Body to function properly (1 Corinthians 12).

Q9 – Christianity is not for male-leadership only. It is clear that God raises up women leaders, too!

Lesson 39 – Romans 16:17-27

Overcome Divisions: Be Strengthened in Christ

Q1 – We are to avoid people in church who cause divisions and create obstacles to sound doctrine!

Q2, 3 – Divisive people are driven by their appetites --- by what they want ---and they will use flattery and deception to get it. They are predatory and manipulative of people who don’t know their scriptures. They are conceited and focused on quarrels and arguments, seeking out preachers to teach what they want to hear. They are to be gently opposed, then officially warned before the congregation. If they don’t stop, we are to ignore them. Sadly, people like this will multiply in the last days. Paul says they are self-condemned.

Q4 – ‘Innocence,’ in relationship to evil activity, doesn’t mean not knowing about it, but rather that one never participates in such things. We are to be innocent regarding evil...!

Q5 – The true Gospel is that Jesus came into the world to save sinners, died on the cross to pay sin’s penalty, rose from the dead in triumph, and that by believing in Jesus and confessing Him as Lord we can be justified and forgiven by the Father. This is an act of God’s grace and mercy, not the result of any person’s good works. By faith, our filthy self-righteousness is replaced by Jesus’ perfect righteousness. Jesus is the ONLY Way to the Father, and He is the Truth and Life of God.

Q6 – God will soon ‘crush’ Satan. God wins; Satan loses! We are on the winning side!