

Growth Group Discussion Q's

January 18, 2026

Fun Discussion Starter: Name something that you enjoy about the person sitting two people to your right.

Going Deeper: Name one “green flag” and one “red flag” about you. For example: “A green flag would be my loyalty as a friend – I will never talk bad about you behind your back. A red flag is my tendency to ‘go along to get along’ to my own regret at times.”

Message Review

Sunday's message marks the end of our year long study of the book of Romans. In this final passage, Paul states a warning to watch out for people who cause divisions by advocating for a teaching that is contrary to the Gospel of Jesus that the apostles preach.

What is the Gospel of Jesus according to Paul?

There are six key attributes to the accepted teaching about salvation in Romans:

1. The judgment of God is revealed against sin (1:18)
2. Jesus paid for our sin by his death on the cross (5:6)
3. We are justified (declared not guilty) by God through our faith in Jesus (3:23-24)
4. We now live in the new way of the Spirit (8:11)
5. We have a new relational status as “sons” and “daughters” (8:14)
6. This new relationship is secure in Christ (8:38-39)

Questions:

- What aspect of the gospel listed above is particularly meaningful to you right now?
- Is there a particular aspect of the gospel that is easy to share with others? What is particularly hard?

3 Common Variations of the Gospel to guard against:

1. Following a person rather than Jesus

- Read Romans 16:17
- Three examples in Paul's writings include:
 - a. In Galatians, it was the Judaizers (ie. We are the true church)
 - b. In Corinth, it was the elevation of gifted teachers (ie. Celebrity Pastors)
 - c. In Ephesus, it was the Artemis Cult (ie. Adding culturally accepted views to the gospel)
- Have you ever experienced a teacher/pastor/leader who caused division or put obstacles to the accepted gospel in any of the above examples?

2. Accommodation of the Gospel to one's own appetite

- Read Romans 16:18
- The diminishing of sin is one way that leaders can cause others to stray from the gospel.

- Consider Psalm 139:23-24; 19:13-14; 1John 1:9
- What role does confession and repentance play in healthy Christianity?

3. Obedience that feels disconnected from relationship

- Read Romans 16:19
- Our motivation for obedience is our love for and union with Jesus. Why is this primary motive so important?
- How can simple “rule following” cause disconnection from our heart? Can we be obedient to attributes of godliness yet have a heart that is disconnected from God?