**Home Group Notes**
**Week of October 25, 2026**
**ALIVE! Through Faith in Jesus Christ**
**Romans 13**

Home Groups are much more than a group conversation. Having said that, we always want you to be "in" on what we are sharing in our times together. If there are times when you cannot come on a Sunday, you can always listen to the worship in song and the message which you can find on the front page of our website. www.trinityonline.org

**YOUR TIME OF LISTENING IN GOD'S WORD**

Read Romans 13 and record a few of your first impressions? What words or ideas are significant?

In chapter 11, the writer, Paul, concluded his treatment of the good news – that though we were 'lost' in sin, now we are 'found' in Christ. He put it this way: "**30** For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy." Praise God. In chapter 12, he wrote, " I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **to present your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** **Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind** . . . "

This is the context for chapter 13: How do we live out a sacrificed and transformed life in our culture? Does that feel overwhelming? We need to remember these important truths:

- We're saved, not a slave to sin, not condemned, loved forever. (Ch's 4-8)
- We trust (have faith) in God the Holy Spirit who empowers and leads us (Chapter 8)
- We are motivated to live out of love and gratefulness (12:1)
- As we trust in and obey God, He transforms us to be and live like Jesus. (12:2)

Paul is continuing to address this question: How does a transformed person live? How does one who has "righteousness in Christ" live in our culture? What does it look like to live "holy and acceptable to God" versus "living to gratify the desires of the flesh?" (5:17; 12:1; 13:14)

Chapter 13 calls us to **live like Jesus in these settings** (i.e. good and righteous):

1) Civil life: how can we live a transformed life in a governed society (1-7)
2) Social life: how we live a transformed life in our relational circles (8-14)

What is noticeable to you in 1-7? Is there a general theme or command? What situations come to mind?

Perhaps verses 8-10 are addressing our local situations, the people we are around including neighbors. What is the primary command that should govern our actions? Does anyone or anything come to mind?

Paul's call in 11-14 is very serious and direct: "wake up!" What is the context of his call? Why so urgent? And what behaviors and situations are mentioned in the six words (phrases) or verse 13? How are these all opposite of love and righteousness?

How are you feeling after the call to do "good" and "love" in this chapter? Do you have shame or guilt? Remember, if you are "in Christ," He died to take away your shame and guilt. There are people in our church family who can help you walk in the joy and assurance of God's love and "no condemnation."

**GROUP TIME: DISCUSSION OF APPLICATION FROM GOD'S WORD**

The author finished the previous chapter with these words: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Does it ever feel like evil is winning in our culture? How do you see the role of Christ followers in our culture?

In previous chapters, we have been called to live like Jesus (love, sacrificial, righteous, etc.) Chapter 12 focused on living before God, in the Body of Christ, and in our relationships with one another. How is chapter 13 the same or different? What is the big picture?

How do we see "the deeds of darkness" lived out in our culture? (12-13) How are these opposite and opposed to living submitted and being transformed?

These commands have an implied audience of God, the world, your neighbor, fellow believers, and even yourself. What happens when we "do what is good" (3) and "put on the armor of light?" (12) What happens if we "do wrong" (4) or fail to "cast off the works of darkness"? (12)

Paul's final command to the believers is to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." How might we help one another live out this life? What has God promised and done to help us live out this transformed life? What about when we mess up?