

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes

w/c 21st April

Romans 8:1 - 13

Earlier this year we worked our way through the whole book of Romans, which meant that we weren't able to dig deeper into passages. In our evening services during the Summer we were taking a longer and more detailed look at Romans 8 and Romans 13&14. The talks are available on the website (<https://belmontexeter.church/talks>), and on the podcast feed on itunes and Spotify for those who use those apps.

This passage is the topic for the evening services on 14th and 21st April. If people aren't able to be at the service then please encourage them to catch up online via the talks page on the Belmont Exeter website.

This outline gives plenty of questions for study of the text, as well as the outworking of these ideas into our everyday lives. There's more than you'll need for a single study so please do edit to a focus that is helpful to your group / study.

Please use other sections of the bible to enrich your study and understanding. Four books on Romans which may be helpful as you prepare are:

Paul for Everyone – Romans by Tom Wright, accessible explanations on short sections
Romans for You by Tim Keller, comment on longer sections, written in a sermon style
The Message of Romans by John Stott, in depth commentary
Reading Romans backwards – Scott McKnight

BIG IDEA: We are set free by the work of Jesus, to live without fear by the power of his Spirit.

WAY IN: What were some of the early signs of new life in you when you became a Christian?

READ: The study will focus on Romans 8v1- 13, but it'd be good to read from Ch 7v21 to have a little more context.

DIG IN:

Questions to discuss

1. Which part of the text (or sermon if you were able to listen to it) had the greatest impact on you? What puzzled you? Did you learn anything new about God? Jesus? You?
2. Romans chapters 1 -7 describes how and why God has acted to bring us into Christ. Who is it that Paul is talking to? What does it mean to be 'in Christ'? Who can be called 'in Christ'?
3. What is the condemnation that Paul talks about? How are we freed from this?
4. What are the privileges of salvation that Paul sets out in Romans 8 v 1 – 4? How do these apply to you?

5. What does 8v4 tell us about the purpose of God's work of salvation? How does that alter our choices about how we use time, abilities, opportunity and money?
6. Paul talks in Romans 8 v 5 – 8 about the way our mind is governed determines our patterns of life. What is the difference between a mind set on what the 'flesh desires' and a mind 'set on what the Spirit desires'?
7. What evidence do you see in your own life of a mind governed by the Spirit? What has helped you to submit to the Spirit governing in your life?
8. What do you understand by the phrases 'Christ in you' (8v10) and 'the Spirit of Christ' (8v9)?

Perhaps work in smaller groups for these next two sections.

LIVE IT OUT:

9. How can we make these apparently abstract ideas a daily celebration of hope?
10. If we are blameless, without condemnation, in God's sight how does that affect how we blame or judge others?
11. Read ahead to v 32- 39 to make the link between no condemnation and security. In what areas of life has God's security made a difference? Where do you need to know that security now?

PRAY IT THROUGH

Pray for the truth of the gospel to transform how we approach situations this week.
Pray for the Spirit of God to put joy and hope at the forefront our minds, words and actions.