

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE CHRISTIAN AND RELATIONSHIPS

Romans 12:13-21

Not Ashamed (Romans) — Week 35

ICEBREAKER: What scripture brings you peace during tough times?

OVERVIEW: The most important thing in life are relationships. People are more important than money, possessions, accomplishments, and awards. At the same time, relationships are also one of the greatest challenges in life. Treating people right and getting along with people can be tough. But the Bible doesn't just tell us to love people, it tells us how. In this discussion we will go deeper with Romans 12:13-21, which gives us eight relationship principles for Christians.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Why are relationships so important?
3. Have you ever had a hard time getting along with someone? Explain.
4. What is the most important key to fostering healthy relationships?
5. Read Colossians 3:12-15 and answer the following questions.
 - a. List the relationship principles in this passage. How many did you identify?
 - b. Of all the principles listed in this passage, which is the most important? Why?
 - c. Which of these relationship principles is most absent in our society?
 - d. Which of these relationship principles do you most need to grow in?

6. Read Romans 12:13-21 and refer to Sunday's sermon for the following questions. Who are the saints, and what does it mean to share with them in their needs and pursue hospitality (see vs. 13)?
7. What does it mean to bless those who persecute you (see vs. 14)?
8. Is it harder to rejoice with those who rejoice, or to weep with those who weep (see vs. 15)? Explain.
9. To foster unity (harmony) in the church, verse 16 says to avoid pride. What are the two practical ways to avoid pride in this verse? Why is pride so detrimental to church unity and church health?
10. How many verses in this passage deal with enemies (or those who have mistreated you)? Why is so much attention given to this subject?
11. How would you summarize all that this passage says about dealing with people who mistreat you?

The Last Word: "If you want to have a great relationship, then treat people like you treated them at the beginning of the relationship. Then there won't be an end to the relationship." Tony Robbins

