

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Romans

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: The Mark of a Believer

Date: 10/04/2026

Memory Verse: Romans 6:23 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: The mark of a devoted Christian is demonstrated by love.

Read Romans 12:9-21

1. Love must detest what is evil and cling to what is good (v 9). In what ways can repeated exposure to sin (in media, workplace culture, or conversation) dull our sensitivity to it? Are there areas in your life where you've grown comfortable with something God calls harmful? How can we learn to distinguish between loving people deeply and refusing to affirm what harms them spiritually?
2. Believers are called to be devoted to one another in love and to honor one another above ourselves (v 10). Why is it sometimes difficult to make the first move in showing honor? Has there been a relationship in your life where initiating honor felt especially hard? How can we maintain zeal in serving the Lord when our efforts to honor others go unnoticed or unreturned?
3. We are to serve the Lord with a spiritual fervor or zeal (v 11). What tends to drain your spiritual passion? What tends to fuel it? How can we tell the difference between serving out of obligation and serving out of love for the Lord? What do we do if we find our spiritual passion waning?



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4. God calls us to meet the needs of others and practice hospitality (v 13). What are some practical ways you could live this out individually? How could your small group collectively pursue hospitality or care for others? How might practicing hospitality help us move toward NCBC's vision of reaching more people by 2030?
5. Believers are instructed to bless those who persecute them (Romans 12:14). What does it take to have a soft heart towards those who have hurt us? What are concrete ways you can bless someone who has wronged you without pretending the hurt didn't happen? How can you guard your heart from bitterness in the process?
6. We are urged to live in harmony with one another (v 16). When differences in personality, convictions, or background feel significant, how can we pursue harmony in a healthy way? What usually disrupts harmony in your heart? How can we intentionally keep our focus on the Lord rather than on secondary disagreements?
7. God tells us not to repay evil for evil, but to leave room for His justice (vv 17-19). Can you recall a time when you either pursued or refrained from seeking retribution? How did that situation ultimately unfold? Looking back, would you handle it differently now? How could responding with blessing instead of retaliation be a powerful witness?
8. Paul encourages us to respond to those who oppose us with acts of kindness (vv 20-21). If someone you've struggled with showed you unexpected kindness, how would you honestly respond? Would it soften your heart? How can we cultivate this kind of disarming generosity toward others?



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