

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Romans

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Christians & Their Neighbor

Date: 10/18/2026

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: Christians love their neighbors and fellow citizens with never-ending love.

Read Romans 13:9-14

1. All the commandments are summed up in this: “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself*” (v 9). Who would you describe as your neighbor? How does this compare with who Jesus describes as a neighbor in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)? How can we prove to be a neighbor to everyone we interact with?
2. Love does no harm to a neighbor (v 10). Before we ever speak or act, we often carry an internal narrative about people. How does that internal story affect the way we interact with them? What are some common reasons we develop negative feelings toward others? How can unchecked resentment or assumptions quietly damage a relationship? What responsibility do we have as followers of Jesus to pursue peace when tension exists?



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3. Paul uses urgent language, telling the believers to "wake up from your slumber" because salvation is nearer now than when we first believed (v 11). How does Jesus' warning in Mark 13:33–37 help sharpen what Paul is sharing? Where do you see signs of sleep in your walk? What does it look like to be awake or watchful? Do you live your life with spiritual urgency or laziness? If you truly behave as if Christ could return at any moment, what priorities would shift immediately?
4. We are called to decisively cast off the works of darkness (v 12). Why is it dangerous to try and manage sin (Colossians 3:5–10)? Why do deeds of darkness like to stay away from the light of Christ? How can we bring behaviors like this that we choose to hide into the light? Is there anything in our own lives now that we need to cast off?
5. To combat the deeds of darkness Paul says to put on the armor of light (v 12). The Christian life is often described as warfare. Why do you think that is? Another passage that refers to metaphorical armor is Ephesians 6:10–18. Which piece of the armor—truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, the Word, or prayer—feels most powerful in your life right now and why?
6. Paul concludes by commanding believers to "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ*" (v 14). What does it look like to consciously "wear" Christ in your speech, reactions, and decisions? What might change if you began each day reminding yourself of this?
7. Paul warns believers not to make any plans for the flesh or its desires (v 14). What does "making provision" for sin look like in today's culture? What practical boundaries could help you manage temptation? How have you experienced the truth of 1 Corinthians 10:13?



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