

## Questions for Growth Group Discussion and Personal Reflection

### Romans 2:1-16

Note: Your *New Living Translation Parallel Study Bible Romans Sampler* also includes group questions that you may choose to use instead of, or as a companion with, these questions. The questions supplied below are intended to more closely align with Covenant's sermon text and emphasis. Group facilitators are free to adapt these in any way and are encouraged to select questions and a closing for their group before the members arrive.

1. Who laid down the law in your home when you were growing up? What do you now think about it? Was it fair, just, kind, too harsh or too lax?
2. Who is the "you" Paul is addressing in 2:1 (see also 2:17)? Knowing that idolatry and homosexuality were scandalous for the Jewish community (1:18-32), and knowing that such activity was generally accepted in the Roman world, and knowing that there was a mix of Jews and Gentiles in the Roman church, what sort of relational tensions or unspoken attitudes might exist within the Jewish segment of the church?
3. Talk about the difference between exercising judgment (distinguishing good from evil, Heb 5:14) and passing judgment (condemning someone for doing wrong, Mt 7:1-2). What kind of judgment does Paul have in mind in verses 1-4 and why is this forbidden?
4. "Loving Holiness" is said to be the irreducible bedrock of God's character.
  - a. What would happen if God's love eclipsed His holiness?
  - b. What would happen if God's holiness eclipsed His love?
  - c. When you think of God, do you tend to lean more toward His holiness or His love? Why?
  - d. How does Jesus' life, death and resurrection hold these two traits in perfect balance?
5. Think about Paul's emphasis on God's judgment and how that impacts your view of your life before God.
  - a. Do you see yourself as a gross sinner (1:18-32), a respectable sinner (2:1-16), or as something else?
  - b. Over the years, has God's kindness toward you led you more toward presumption or repentance? What in us influences our response?
6. "Faith + Works = Salvation." "Faith brings salvation which leads us to good works." Using these two statements as a guide, what role do works play in salvation? What about sanctification? What about reward? So, are good works important in the Christian life? Why or why not?
7. It has been said that we need to see the bad news before we can fully appreciate the good news. What new insight have you gained about the bad or good news over the last few weeks of study?

Close by reading Romans 3:22-25 and thank God for the Good News He has given!

For Next Week: Memorize Romans 2:4