

Romans 12

Live Your Life as a Living Sacrifice unto the Lord

- ... Therefore (in light of the prior chapters), live your lives as a fragrant offering to God.
- Use sober judgment in regard to how you view yourself. You are an appendage on a body of many.

Bear the Marks of a True Christian

- Let your love be genuine to others and serve the Lord fervently.

Romans 13

Live in Submission to the Authorities which God Has Instituted

- Those who resist the authorities resist what God has appointed.
- The government is intended to be God's servant for good. It is responsible for, and has the authority to, carry out God's wrath on the wrong doer.

Romans 14

Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another

- One person's faith may permit eating anything, another eats only vegetables. The one who abstains should not pass judgment on the one who eats... Each should be convinced in his own mind.

Do Not Cause Another to Stumble

- If your brother is grieved by what you eat, you should abstain; that is walking in love.

Romans 15

The Example of Christ

- Christ did not please himself (Lk 22:42) and we are to lovingly bear with our weaker brothers, living in harmony, while glorifying God.

Paul Explains His Plan to Visit Rome.

- Paul wants to extend the reach of his ministry. He hopes to see them while on his way to Spain, but first he has to go to Jerusalem to bring the contributions he has collected while on his journeys.

Romans 16

Paul Sends His Personal Greetings

- Phoebe likely delivered this letter to the church at Rome. Paul also warmly greets those in Rome who are involved in his ministry.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

When Written: Because Paul mentions his imprisonment (3:1; 4:1; 6:20), it is believed that this letter was written when Paul was held in Rome (Acts 28).

Theme: There are two main themes of Ephesians: (1) Christ has reconciled all creation to himself and to God, and (2) Christ has united people from all nations to himself and to one another in his church; This being by faith alone through God's grace. In light of these great truths, Christians are to lead lives that are a fitting tribute of gratitude to their Lord.

Purpose: Ephesians articulates general instructions for one's life after experiencing the redemptive work of God in Christ. Believers are to demonstrate unity within the church among diverse peoples; Honor God with their conduct in the church, the home, and in the world. Unity, love and peace are to mark the Christians' grateful response to the grace granted by their Heavenly Father.