

THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans

A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION THIRTEEN

Romans 12:1-13:7

Questions for Session Thirteen

1. What is Paul urging his brothers in Christ in Rome to do in v. 1? What has God's mercy to do with his request? Explain how one's religious practices should demonstrate a sacrificial faith in God. How do we live our faith sacrificially?

2. What does Paul say will happen to us when we do not conform to this world? How are we transformed and by what? How does this compare to being *in* the world, but not of the world? What must happen before we know what God's will is?

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3. Why do you suppose we have elevated opinions of ourselves? What kind of *self-judgment* should we use, and how do we get it? How do you think a deeper relationship with God will impact how we view ourselves?
4. What kind of analogy does Paul use to explain the differences that each of us brings to the Christian community? How do we complement one another as we work side-by-side to bring God's kingdom on earth? What does it mean to be one body?
5. How does God expect us to use the spiritual gifts we have been given? How does this translate into the local congregation? How many ways are there to serve God by serving within the body of the Church?
6. What is Paul urging the Christian believers in Rome to do in vv. 9-21? This almost reads like the *Ten Commandments of Love*. Which one of these causes you the most trouble? Which one are you good at because you practice it the most?

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7. According to Paul, who established the governing authorities? How does Paul justify our submitting to the governing authorities? Explain v. 2? What happens to those persons, who rebel against authority?
8. How do we live *free of fear* of those in authority? What is meant by doing what is right? What happens when we do not submit to authority? What does v. 5 say about the negative effect on us when we do not submit to authority? What does Paul teach regarding the paying of taxes?

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