

Edify Small Group Handout - Sermon May 2026
“Love for the Church (Rom 1:8-15)”

1. **Opening: *Either use a sign in sheet or record who attends, and email that to Jon Lydell***
 - a. **Prayer:** Give thanks
 - b. **CHECK-IN WITH EACH OTHER:** How is everyone? Praise reports from last week's prayers? What are you thankful for this week? (The goal is to cultivate gratitude and worship)

2. **SERMON REFLECTION: *SOMEONE READS THE PASSAGE FIRST:*** Then Someone gives a brief (5 minute tops) recap/summary of Sunday's sermon
 - a. **Introduction:**
 - i. Motherhood/fatherhood/parenting as an agent of heart reorientation
 - ii. The gospel re-orientes the human heart to love others in general, but the church particularly.

 - b. **Main Point: *Christ produces within Christians a genuine love for the church***

 - c. **Grand Points of the Text :**
 - i. To love the church is to be thankful for her (v. 8)
 - ii. To love the church is to long to be with her (v. 9-10, see also 11a, 13a)
 - iii. To love the church is to seek to benefit her (v. 11-15)

 - d. ***“What convicted/impacted you personally about Sunday's sermon?” The leader is willing to go first***

3. **LEARN: What does this section of scripture teach us?**
 - a. **Introduction:**
 - i. What is re-orientation of the heart?
 - ii. What real-life example did John use to illustrate reorientation?
 - iii. How are we as believers supposed to “see” their church community?

 - b. **Grand Points of the Text :**
 - i. **To love the church is to be thankful for her (v. 8)**
 - (1) Why do we use the pronoun “her” for the church?
 - (2) What is the “first of all” desire that Paul wants the Romans to know?
 - (3) Why is it important to Paul to pray “without ceasing” v. 9-10 for the Roman church?
 - (4) Why is declaring “Jesus is Lord” not only a religious statement but a political one?
 - (5) How can we love the church *today*?

 - ii. **To love the church is to long to be with her (v. 9-10, see also 11a, 13a)**
 - (1) What did Paul do to demonstrate his longing to know and be with the church?

- (2) What is Paul's specific prayer to God in v.10 and how should we view our own prayers that are either unanswered or delayed in being answered?
- (3) What events or circumstances in your life demonstrate a tangible sense of "longing Paul has for the Romans?"

iii. To love the church is to seek to benefit her (v. 11-15)

- (1) What does Paul consider his "duty" in benefitting the church
- (2) What happens when Paul uses his gifts and shares them with the Romans?
- (3) Do you have to obtain a theology degree to serve or benefit those in your church community?

4. APPLY: How do we apply these teachings in a genuine fashion?

- a. Paul uses his calling and gifts to love and therefore serve the church. Do you know what your calling is? Are you aware of what gifts you have?
- b. How are communities outside the church (social clubs or people that share in hobbies or interests) like the church? Do you view the church as the bride of Christ or merely a social group?

5. Homework/contemplation/meditation:

Consider how you love the church by:

- 1) committing to pray for your church leaders and ministers,
- 2) Pray specifically by name for those you fellowship with.
- 3) If you are not serving the body currently consider making the sacrifice to serve in some

capacities on Sunday mornings.

6. Closing: *Praying for one another [use the prayer cards]*