

Romans Discussion Guide

Week 2 — Identity as a Servant / Romans 1:1–7

Romans 1:1–7 gives us a clear place to answer the question, “Who am I?” Rather than creating an identity for ourselves, we receive our identity from Jesus. In Christ, we are saints, servants, assigned, and valued.

I Opening Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group see yourselves the way God sees you. Pray that He would expose false labels, settle your identity in Christ, and show each person how to faithfully serve Jesus in the assignments He has given them.

II Weekly Sermon Discussion

20–40 minutes

Read the Scriptures together and share what stands out. The insights and questions below are provided to help generate discussion; you do not need to answer every question. Keep your conversation focused on Scripture and how it applies to your life.

- What part of the sermon stood out to you, and why?

Receiving Your Identity Instead of Creating It

Read: Romans 1:1–7 and Ecclesiastes 3:11

Our culture often treats identity like a do-it-yourself project: discover yourself, define yourself, and prove your worth. Scripture begins somewhere different. God has placed eternity in the human heart, and Romans 1 speaks directly to who we are in relation to Jesus. Before Paul gives the Romans instructions about how to live, he reminds them who they are and to whom they belong.

- Where do you see pressure in our culture to create or prove your own identity? What effect can that pressure have on people?
- When someone asks, “Who are you?” what roles, accomplishments, failures, relationships, or labels are you most likely to use to answer?
- What changes when identity is something we receive from God rather than something we have to figure out for ourselves?

You Are a Saint

Read: Romans 1:7

Paul writes to ordinary believers in Rome as people who are “called to be saints.” The word translated saints, *hagios*, describes those who are holy and set apart for God. Paul is not presenting sainthood as a status they will earn after enough spiritual achievement. He is describing who they are because they belong to Jesus. Our actions still matter, but transformation begins by learning to live from the identity Christ has given us.

- Is it easy or difficult for you to think of yourself as a saint? Why?
- What old labels, failures, or sins are you most tempted to allow to define you?
- How could your choices change if you consistently began with the truth, “I belong to Jesus. I am holy and set apart for Him”?

You Are a Servant

Read: Romans 1:1 and 1 Corinthians 3:4–9

Paul introduces himself first as a servant of Christ Jesus and then describes his assignment as an apostle. In 1 Corinthians, he applies the same perspective to himself and Apollos: they are servants and co-workers who have been given different tasks by God. Position does not replace purpose. Every follower of Jesus shares the purpose of serving Christ, even though our assignments may look very different.

- Why do you think Paul leads with “servant” before talking about being an apostle?
- Where are Christians tempted to elevate certain positions or ministries while undervaluing others?
- What would change in a church if everyone genuinely believed, “We are all servants of Jesus; we have simply been given different assignments”?

You Are Assigned

Read: Romans 1:1 and Colossians 3:17, 23–24

Paul’s purpose was to serve Jesus; apostleship was one of the specific assignments through which he did it. The same pattern helps us think about our own lives. Parenting, work, ministry, school, relationships, and other responsibilities can become meaningful places of service when they are oriented toward Jesus. An assignment does not have to look impressive to have eternal significance.

- What assignments has God placed in your life during this season?
- Is there an assignment you have been treating as insignificant or saying, “I’m just a _____”? How might you see it differently?
- Put yourself in the text: “_____, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be a _____.” What would you put in those blanks right now?
- What is one practical way you can approach one of your assignments as service to Jesus this week?

You Are Valued and Valuable

Read: Romans 1:6–7 and Ephesians 2:10

Paul tells the believers that they are called to belong to Jesus Christ, loved by God, and called as His holy people. Belonging to Jesus means our value is not determined by our success, possessions, recognition, or circumstances. We are valued by Him, and He has also prepared meaningful work for us to do. Our lives can bring Him glory and serve His Kingdom.

- What is the difference between knowing intellectually that God values you and actually living as though you believe it?
- Where are you most tempted to measure your value by something other than Jesus?
- How does knowing that you belong to Jesus affect the way you see your purpose, work, relationships, or current season?
- Of these four truths — saint, servant, assigned, valued and valuable — which one does God most need to settle in your heart right now? Why?

Baptism and a New Identity

Read: Romans 6:3–4

Baptism is a public identification with Jesus and with the new life we have received in Him. It declares that our old life is no longer the defining story and that we now belong to Christ. For someone who has put their faith in Jesus but has not been baptized, this may be the next step of obedience.

- What does baptism communicate about a person's identity and allegiance to Jesus?
- If you have put your faith in Jesus but have not been baptized, what is keeping you from taking that step?

III Share and Prayer

20–40 minutes

Take off the mask and share honestly. Give one another room to talk about what is really happening, without feeling pressure to share more than you are ready to.

- How are you doing personally and spiritually? Share a challenge or victory, and name how you are feeling.
- Which identity truth from Romans 1:1–7 do you most need to remember this week?
- What assignment or relationship do you need prayer to approach differently as a servant of Jesus?
- How can your group support you this week?

Have someone, or everyone, close your time in prayer for one another. Ask Jesus to help you live from the identity He has given you: as saints who are set apart for Him, servants who live for His purposes, people with meaningful assignments, and people who are deeply valued by Him and valuable to His Kingdom.