

Study Questions

Romans 1:8-15

Gospel Friendships that go the Distance

1. How have gospel-centered friendships impacted your spiritual growth? Share a time when a friendship grounded in shared faith strengthened you during a difficult season.
2. Paul cultivated a strong friendship with the Romans despite their differences. What differences between you and others have been bridged by your common faith in Christ?
3. Paul prayed specifically and persistently for his relationships with the Roman believers. How intentional is your prayer life regarding the friendships God has placed in your life?
4. Reflect on your motivations for friendships. Are they primarily for comfort and companionship, or do they include spiritual objectives like mutual encouragement in faith?
5. How are you currently investing in establishing a "sound faith" in your close relationships, as Paul desired to do with the Romans?
6. Pastor Sam mentioned gospel friendships often require "showing up" and persevering in understanding difficult truths together. In what ways might God be calling you to "show up" for someone in your faith community? What are some ways you can engage and develop your own understanding of the more difficult parts of Romans?
7. What spiritual fruit have you seen the gospel produce in your friendships? What fruit would you like to see develop further?
8. Paul felt a compelling obligation to share the gospel with all people. How does this sense of mission shape your own approach to relationships, both with believers and non-believers?
9. Consider the three questions at the end of the sermon: Do you truly want gospel-centered friendships? Do your current friends align with this vision? Are you being the kind of friend Paul modeled? Which question challenges you most? Why?
10. What practical step can you take this week to nurture a friendship that "goes the distance" based on the principles outlined in Romans 1:8-15?