

# Leader Guide

## Entrusted

Fall 2024 | Week 8

Message Date 11/3/2024

### THE GOAL

In this series, we have been talking about God's heart on money. This week, Pastor Craig is taking a shift and talking about how we are to trust with faith during times of uncertainty. This week is elections week. Our country is facing a presidential election, which has significant impact on our lives. Many people find politics to be something that twists them and causes great anxiety. This week we will be unpacking how our faith, in times like these, can be an anchor for our souls. The goal this week is to encourage one another as it's our last week together for this quarter. No matter what happens, Jesus is still on the throne. We will be unpacking ways that Paul understood the boundaries of our faith and how we can apply it practically.

### MY STORY

- 1) What was your favorite treat or snack as a child? Has that changed now that you're an adult, if so to what?
- 2) What would the title of your autobiography be?

### QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

### DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

#### **Romans 12:3-21 (NLT)**

<sup>3</sup> Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. <sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

<sup>6</sup> In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. <sup>7</sup> If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. <sup>8</sup> If

*your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

*<sup>9</sup> Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. <sup>11</sup> Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.*

*<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. <sup>13</sup> When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.*

*<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. <sup>15</sup> Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!*

*<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. <sup>18</sup> Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.*

*<sup>19</sup> Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord.*

*<sup>20</sup> Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads."*

*<sup>21</sup> Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.<sup>i</sup>*

- 4) In verse three, what do you think Paul means when he says *measure yourselves by the faith God has given you*? Why is this?

Much like the talents that we studied last week, God gives to us based upon our abilities. Last week we unpacked the idea that He gives us our resources based on our abilities to return them. Because Jesus is telling us this in a parable, it could potentially mean faith. Here we see that Paul is clearly talking about faith given in different measures to people. With whatever measure I have, I need to be into Jesus and not waste this gift of faith.

- 5) How does understanding that God has entrusted us with faith help us keep a balanced view of ourselves?

It keeps us from becoming prideful or feeling inferior knowing that our value is rooted in God's work in us. It helps each of us recognize that all good things come from God.

- 6) Why is it important to recognize that we are "many parts of one body" (v.5) in living out our faith?

Recognizing our place in the body reminds us that our faith is for the whole community—we need each other and are responsible for supporting one another in Christ. We can't do this alone.

- 7) What does it look like to "hold tightly to what is good" (v.9) in the way we live out our faith daily?

It involves us holding onto what is good, meaning I have to pay attention to the good things. It has to be intentional. I can't do it on accident. This world wants to drag me down into its influences, and it's all around me. So holding tight to what is good in living out our faith daily means we have to intentionally think about the good. This means we

have to dwell in God's Word to know it deeply, and we have to spend time in prayer to hold onto Him and pray for others who are struggling.

- 8) What role does patience, hope, and prayer (v.12) play as boundaries that keep our faith focused on God rather than our circumstances?

They ground us, helping us rely on God's timing and strength rather than our own, which reinforces our trust in Him amidst life's challenges.

- 9) According to this passage, what are we supposed to do with those who do wrong to us? Do you find this easy to do or difficult to do, and how can we actually put it into practice?

Pray for those who don't like us or who we have had struggles or problems with. We pray for them that God would provide them all the things that we actually want in our life. We want good things for ourselves, so we pray those for them, even when our feelings don't match our prayers. Praying for them and doing good to them is not about emotion. It's not about the hurt. It's about obedience. Jesus did it for us when we were sinners and His enemy. We simply need to pass it on to others. I think we look more like Jesus when we forgive these kinds of people than any other time. It's not about our feelings--pray for them anyway. God will change your heart.

- 10) In what area of your life can you practice a specific boundary from this passage to honor the faith God has entrusted to you this week?

(Justin) I can practice patience and pray for the people on the other end of the political landscape. What else does your group come up with? (Here is an example if they get stuck: encourage each group member to identify one gift, like patience, kindness, or genuine love, and share a concrete way they can put it into practice, allowing their faith to guide their actions.)

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Think and pray through the following:

- 1) Read Romans 12 again and ask God if there is something that you are missing from the list that Paul provides.
- 2) Is there a shift in your attitude and behavior that God needs to make in you?
- 3) Who does God want you to encourage this week with these words?

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<sup>i</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Ro 12:3–21.