

The Romans Letter

Romans 12:1-2, 13:11-14

The Background

The Romans Letter is divided between the Gospel truths and the Gospel's expectations for those who embrace it.

- ⇒ Chaps 1—11 = Gospel truths: *What does it mean to believe the gospel?*
- ⇒ Chaps 12—15 = Gospel expectations: *How does the gospel effect the life of the believer?*
 - Chaps 12—13 = Detailed expectations of our new life in Christ (rooted in 6:11—14)
 - Chaps 14—15 = A specific expectation for the local body of Christ (rooted in 11:17-24)

The contextual movement: 12:1—2 → 15:5-6

A Closer Look at Chaps 12—13: Detailed expectations

A. Chaps 12—13 is a unit of thought with bookends

- 12:1—2 = **The time:** “in this age”
 - **The action:** presenting your bodies and renewing your minds
- 13:11—14 = **The time:** “it is already the hour”
 - **The action:** “putting on Jesus” and “giving no thought (mind) to the lusts (desires) of the flesh”

B. The six “detailed expectations” of our new life

1. 12:1-2 - Bodies for worship and mind for God's will
2. 12:3-8 - Ministering to “the Body” in humility
3. 12:9-21 - Love without hypocrisy
4. 13:1-7 - Model citizens of the state
5. 13:8-10 - Pattern of a good neighbor
6. 13:11-14 - Behaving as if you are in the Day (v. 13)