TRUE NORTH SOUL CARE

Romans Conversations

with Family and Friends

NOVEMBER 8, 2026 | THE PURPOSE OF ROMANS | JUDE ST JOHN

The letter to the Romans is written to be lived, not only studied. True North Soul Care has prepared these questions so that Sunday's message keeps working in you through the conversations you have with family and friends this week.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Paul wrote Romans for one purpose: to strengthen us in the gospel. He teaches in order to train us, so that the whole of our life is shaped by what we receive, not our understanding of it alone.

> *"Only the gospel gives us a clear-sighted view of our moral incapacity and weakness, and the means of dealing with our guilt and shame. Only the gospel gives us a secure identity as God's beloved children. Only the gospel gives us a story worth living."*
>
> **Brian Rosner, from the sermon**

> *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."*
>
> **Romans 1:16 (ESV)**

1 · What Is Actually Organizing Your Life? *Romans 1:1; 1:16*

Paul's entire life flowed from one centre: the gospel. Not as a belief held alongside other things, the framework from which he read every circumstance. What is actually organizing your life right now? Where are you drawing your sense of worth, direction, and meaning from, honestly?

> *Picture it this way. Your first thought on Monday morning is whether your boss noticed your work. Your mood for the whole day tracks with how that plays out. Not because work is wrong, but because it has quietly become the framework your worth runs through rather than the gospel.*

LIVING THIS OUT

Name one area of this week (a decision, a relationship, a worry) where you have been living from a different centre. How could you bring the gospel to that one area this week, in one honest and specific way?

2 · Where Do You Need Strengthening? *Romans 1:11; 16:25*

Paul wrote this letter with one intent: to strengthen believers in the gospel. Where is your faith genuinely thin right now, not in terms of what you know but in terms of a specific area of your life where the gospel is not yet functioning as the governing power it claims to be?

> *Think of it concretely. Perhaps you have known for a while that anxiety is running your parenting, so that every decision about your children is shaped more by fear of what could go wrong than by trust in the God who is able to strengthen you. You know the right answers. The gospel is not yet the governing power in that room.*

LIVING THIS OUT

Bring that one area to God in prayer this week, using the words of Romans 16:25: "to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel." What would it mean, in that specific area, to trust that he is genuinely able?

3 · What Is Your Next Best Step? *Romans 1:15; 15:5–6*

Jude named four things this letter intends to do in us: explain the gospel deeply, call us to God's Word, build unity across division, and enlist us in shared mission. Which one of these four lands most urgently in a relationship or situation you are living in right now?

> *Consider this. Perhaps the most urgent thing in your life right now is a fractured relationship with someone in your church. You have been waiting for them to move first. The unity Jude named as one of Paul's four purposes is precisely what that situation needs. The next step is not a resolution but a first honest move toward the other person.*

LIVING THIS OUT

What is one specific, honest, next-best God-glorifying step you could take in that relationship or situation this week? Not a resolution, not a full plan. One step.

This Week's Gospel Training

Jude used the picture of physical training (progressive overload and specificity) to describe what Paul is doing through this letter. Here is how those two principles apply this week.

Adding this week:

This is the opening session. Paul has told you what the whole training program is for and what it will require. The demand this week is not to master the content; it is to commit to the process. Trust that the God who is able to strengthen you is also the one who designed this letter for exactly that purpose.

Training specifically in:

The gospel as the organizing centre of a life, not a belief held alongside other beliefs. It is the specific framework from which every circumstance is read and every relationship is entered.

This week: What is one habit, conversation, or decision where you can practise bringing the gospel as the organizing centre, deliberately, specifically, even if imperfectly?

Romans Conversations is designed to take Sunday's message further, into the conversations and spiritual strengthening that happen in the daily life of our church family. **If you have questions, a comment to share, or would like to meet and go deeper,** reach out to Rick Walton, biblical counsellor and Director of True North Soul Care at WLA Church. We would love to continue the conversation with you.

Connect with Rick and TNSC →