becoming
a Romans 12 Christian

true spirituality ™
a Romans 12 guide to living as an authentic disciple of Jesus Christ
are you r12?

Being a genuine disciple of Christ flows out of relationship with Him. It’s about experiencing God’s grace, not earning His love through performance. Romans chapter 12 provides a relational profile of an authentic disciple. Christians who live out this kind of lifestyle are what we call r12 Christians....

- surrendered to God
- separate from the world
- sober in self assessment
- serving in love
- supernaturally responding to evil with good

God is willing to go deeper and grow you into a real disciple. Are you ready?
r12 resources designed to help individuals, small groups, and local churches grow as disciples of Jesus Christ include...

r12 media resources
- dvd series
- cd series
- study guide

the r12 online experience...FREE!
- video Q&A
- life coaching
- interactive study guide
- online journal
- leader resources

to get r12 resources or learn more, go to LivingontheEdge.org today!
We are all spiritual. Whether we embrace it or run from it, God has hard-wired spirituality into our DNA. We are living in a time where there is much intrigue and interest surrounding spiritual realities. Believers and non-believers alike are looking for ways to find spiritual meaning in their lives.

It is not enough for us to search for spirituality, we must pursue TRUE spirituality. Yet, for many of us who are Christ-followers, true spirituality seems illusive. Many believers describe their Christian life as “stuck” and “not working” in spite of all the books, seminars, church programs and religious activity. We know that something is wrong and that God has more for us than what we are experiencing.

This series is a starting place in beginning to define what an authentic disciple looks like in the 21st century. The goal of this series is to strip away all the clutter and help us rediscover the essence of the Christian life. During these 10 sessions we will take a journey together to answer the question “What is a disciple?”.

Romans 12 provides us a clear picture of an authentic follower of Christ. This one chapter is Paul’s executive summary of a disciple. The Bible has a lot to say on this topic, but this is a great place to begin.

I am excited that you and your group are joining me on this journey. I really believe that these weeks together will bring TRUE spirituality into focus and help your next steps in being an authentic Christ follower.

Let’s get started!

Teaching Pastor, Living on the Edge
how to get the most out of this experience

Your group is about to begin what could be a life-changing journey. This powerful study of Romans 12 with Chip Ingram provides breakthrough teaching about what it means to be an authentic follower of Jesus Christ. Listed below are the segments that are part of each week’s lesson as well as some hints for getting the most out of this experience. If you are leading the group, you will find additional help and coaching starting on page 60.

**TAKE IT IN**
During this section you will watch the teaching video. Chip will introduce each session with a personal word to the group. Next, the group will watch the teaching section. At the end of this segment, Chip will wrap up the session and help the group begin discussion. A teaching outline with fill-in-the-blank exercises is provided for each session. As you follow along, remember to write down questions or insights that you can share during the discussion time. Even though most of the verses will appear on the screen and in your notes, it is a great idea to bring a Bible each week. It will allow you to make notes in your Bible and find other passages that might be relevant to that week’s study.

**TALK IT OVER**
Discussion questions are provided so your group can further engage the teaching content. Keep the following guidelines in mind for having a healthy group conversation.

- **Be involved.** Jump in and share your thoughts. Your ideas are important. You have a perspective that is unique and can benefit the other group members.
- **Be a good listener.** Value what others are sharing. Try to really understand the perspective of others in your group and don’t be afraid to ask follow up questions.
- **Be courteous.** Always treat others with the utmost respect. When there is disagreement, focus on the issue and never turn the discussion into a personal attack.
- **Be focused.** Stay on topic. Help the group explore the subject at hand and try to save unrelated questions or stories for afterwards.
- **Be careful not to dominate the conversation.** Be aware of the amount of talking you are doing in proportion to the rest of the group and allow others to speak, too.
- **Be a learner.** Remain sensitive to what God might want to teach you through the lesson, as well as through what others have to say.

**LIVE IT OUT**
These simple suggestions help the lesson come to life. Don’t ignore them; give them a try! Check in with another group member during the week and ask how it’s going.

**DIVE DEEPER**
Often, these sessions can raise as many questions as they answer. From our years of experience in working with Christians and small groups, we have tried to anticipate some of those questions. In your study guide at the end of each session, you will find a few common questions about that week’s topic or passage. Chip has videotaped brief answers to these questions and they are available online. All you need to do is to go to [LivingontheEdge.org](http://LivingontheEdge.org) to access this helpful resource.
SESSION 9

how to overcome
the evil aimed at you

part 1

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
Live in harmony with one another.
Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.
If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath,
for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.
On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this,
you will heap burning coals on his head.”
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:14-21 (NIV)

God hard-wired into your DNA a profound ability to love deeply
and to hurt deeply. One of the risks of relationships is that we
can be seriously wounded. We all know people that are carrying
painful scars from a relational wound that happened years ago. The
question is “How do I get past the hurt”? Well, that’s exactly what this
session is about.
How does an authentic follower of Christ respond to those who have hurt them the ___________?

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:43-48 (NIV)

BECOMING A R12 CHRISTIAN IS NOT DIFFICULT — IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

Characteristics of a R12 Christian

It’s about a ______________________________ response, not performance

It’s about ______________________________, not rules or religious activity

It’s about ______________________________

- Loving God through a surrendered life.
- Refusing to love the world’s false promises.
- Loving ourselves for who God made us to be.
- Loving fellow believers through sacrificial service.
- Loving our enemies by supernaturally returning good for evil.
A Romans 12 response to personal attack ___________________________ to bless those who have wounded you (v.14-16)

1. Forgiveness (v.14)

Forgiveness is a ________________________________________________________________

2. Identification (v.15)

TALK IT OVER

1. Perhaps today’s teaching has brought to the surface a painful situation you are facing right now. Don’t be afraid to ask your group for prayer. You don’t have to share the details, but you need the prayer and support of Christian friends.

   Spend whatever time is necessary to pray for those in your group who are dealing with relational wounds.

2. Share about a time when you had to forgive someone who hurt you. How did you come to the place where you could forgive?
3. Have someone read Matthew 18:21-35. At the end of the story, the man who refused to forgive was handed over to be **tortured**.
   How is refusing to forgive like handing ourselves over to be tortured?

4. Ephesians 4:32 (NLT) says “Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”
   Spend some time in prayer praising God for the forgiveness we have in Jesus.
LIVE IT OUT

1. Get alone with God and make a list of all the specific things this person did to hurt or wound you. Then, this week, go through your list and one by one choose to forgive that person for these hurts.

2. Memorize Colossians 3:13 this week and try to meditate on it each day.

   You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.
   Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

3. Just go to LivingontheEdge.org and click on the story tab to share with us how God is working in your life.

DIVE DEEPER

• What are some practical ways that I can bless those that have been my enemies?

• What will happen if I just avoid any conflict or hatred that I might have against someone?
The Living on the Edge Community.
Over 40 Online Growth Resources + the r12 Online Experience...FREE!

It’s jam-packed full of free audio & video resources from Chip Ingram and others to help make your faith real. You can watch, listen, download messages and share with your friends.

All New Community Features

- Video Messages
- Audio Messages
- MP3 Downloads
- Community Blog
- Chip’s Corner
- Resource Sharing

Grow Deeper with the r12 Online Experience

A new guided discipleship pathway from Living on the Edge based on Romans chapter 12.

Join now to experience the New Living on the Edge Community & r12 online today!

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