

Every church and every person needs to have foundational beliefs that guide and direct life, decisions, direction, and processes. During 'Foundations' The Church at Martinsburg will examine the book of Romans and establish core doctrinal beliefs for life, relationships, and mission. This series more than any we've done before will set the pace and direction for the church.

**Growth Questions for 9/4/11 – 9/11/11**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. According to this chapter, who are the "weak" and who are the "strong"? Why does Paul characterize them in this way?
3. What is the problem? How can we relate this to our current church culture? What are Paul's solutions?
4. How can a church full of people with different backgrounds, genes, personality types, ways of communicating and thinking, struggles, emotions, values, desires, experiences, expectations, and convictions *ever* expect to find unity?
5. What do you v.4 means: "Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld for the Lord is able to make him stand."
6. In what ways do we put up stumbling blocks or hindrances in the way of our brothers and sisters in Christ? In what ways might we "destroy" others with our liberty?
7. In verses 19-23, what is the litmus test for whether our behavior is right or not?

***Living on Mission******Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go***

1. Think of your own areas of liberty and your own areas of legalism. Would you consider yourself "weak" or "strong"? What exactly is God's command to you specifically from this passage?
2. Has your experience of the kingdom of God been one of "eating and drinking" or has it been one of "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit"? Examine Paul's commands in these scriptures. How does a church switch their focus from the petty to the powerful?
3. In what specific ways do we serve Christ so that it is acceptable to God and approved by men?
4. If we lived in this kind of unity within the body of Christ, how do you believe this would affect the way that those far from God view the Church as a whole? How might this kind of unity further the cause of the gospel?

**Important Dates**

- 9/4/11           Community Groups Kick Off
- 9/11/11         Financial Peace University Begins
- 9/25/11         Next Steps w/C@M
- 11/19/11        Operation Thanks!

**COMMUNITY GROUPS DEFINED**

A Community Group is a home fellowship made up of 10-15 people who meet every week to share, study and support one another. A leader leads each group. An average meeting lasts for an hour and a half, followed by light refreshments. They're the place where the real ministry of the church should take place as we study God's Word, while supporting and sharing our lives with one another.

Community Groups meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights in homes throughout Martinsburg. Visit [groups.martinsburgchurch.org](http://groups.martinsburgchurch.org) for more information.