

VIII. ETHICS

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SESSION 8



There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

Romans 2.9-11 (NRSV)

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1. Review the egalitarian consequences of the “one in Christ” baptismal formula from Galatians 3.
 2. Discuss the elements of Romans 16 that reveal the “radical” Paul.
 3. How are Colossians and Ephesians examples of the “conservative” Paul?
 4. How is Timothy an example of the “reactionary” Paul?
 5. What accounts for Paul’s apparent change-of-heart regarding patriarchy from Romans through Timothy?
 6. While ancient ethics were determined by what is “natural,” we understand such ethics to be conditioned by time and space. How does this impact the issues of slavery, war, and homosexuality?
 7. How does the concept of equality – as expressed in Philo, the *Sibylline Oracles*, Christian Baptism or Paul’s counter-patriarchy – pose a threat to Roman culture? To ours?
 8. Where do you see this information influencing your spirituality? The church? The world?