

Romans 3: 1-20

Brainstorming the human problem



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

In this study, see if you can assign people to the six thinking hats:

- **Managing Blue** – what is the subject? what are we thinking about? what is the goal? Can look at the big picture.
- **Information White** – considering purely what information is available, what are the facts?
- **Emotions Red** – intuitive or instinctive gut reactions or statements of emotional feeling (but not any justification).
- **Discernment Black** – logic applied to identifying reasons to be cautious and conservative. Practical, realistic.
- **Optimistic response Yellow** – logic applied to identifying benefits, seeking harmony. Sees the brighter, sunny side of situations.
- **Creativity Green** – statements of provocation and investigation, seeing where a thought goes. Thinks creatively, outside the box.

The text – Romans 3:1–20

Discuss the following statements from as many perspectives as you can. Use the six hats.

1. There is much advantage in being a Jew.
2. Human unfaithfulness will nullify God's faithfulness.
3. Human unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly.
4. My falsehood increases God's glory.
5. Let us do evil that good may result.
6. Human sin means there is no advantage in being a Jew.

The Scriptures – Romans 3:1–20 as a portion of the Scriptures

7. Paul quotes from Psalm 14, 5, 140, 10 and 36 and Isaiah 59.

Study these texts to see what they teach about the relationship between human unfaithfulness and God's faithfulness.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Romans 2:1–11 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. Does Paul's portrait of sin raise issues about your own life?

9. Use Psalm 36 in a time of meditative prayer.

10. What is it like to experience a God whose love reaches to the heavens and whose faithfulness reaches to the skies?