

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 1 – A Wholesome Self-image Romans 1:1 - 6

1. Read and consider Romans 1:1 - 6
2. In other letters that Paul wrote he was primarily involved in doing 5 things –
 - i. A _____ Q _____
 - ii. C _____ E _____
 - iii. R _____ P _____
 - iv. G _____ I _____
 - v. R _____ I _____

3. What is different about this letter to the church in Rome?

He is writing to a C _____ he D _____ ' K _____ in a C _____ he had
N _____ V _____

4. What was [is] the main reason for this letter to the Roman church?

5. As we look at this opening sentence in the letter we look at Paul's introduction of himself.

- i. He is a S _____ of J _____ C _____
- ii. He is C _____ to be an A _____
- iii. He is S _____ A _____ for the G _____

6. **1. A servant of Jesus Christ**

Read and consider Romans 6:16

In today's vocabulary we don't like the word 'slaves' or 'servant'; but what defines a servant?

- i. A servant is D _____ by his M _____ ' P _____

7. ii. A servant is D _____ on his Master's P _____

8. iii. A servant is D _____ by his Master's P _____

Read and consider Acts 20:22 - 24

Final Thoughts

As the Master holds the whole picture in His hands,
so the servant can relax.

Can YOU say that?

If you are a servant of Jesus Christ –

- i) You are directed by the Master's Plans.
- ii) You are dependent on the Master's provision.
- iii) Your life is determined by the Master's Plan.

Do you see yourself this way?

Far from being restrictive, this is releasing and liberating.

Do you see it this way?

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 2 – The Source & Scope of the Gospel Romans 1:1 - 6

1. Read and consider Romans 1:1 – 6
Having introduced himself in our last study, now Paul goes on to introduce his message, and this comes in 3 parts.

i. Its S _____ ii. Its S _____ iii. Its S _____

2. **The Source of the Gospel**

Where did the Gospel begin?

3. Read and consider Ephesians 2:20; and 1 Corinthians 15:3 - 4
Jesus is not the F _____ of Christianity [as we call it], but rather He is the F _____ of the P _____ and P _____ that were made about Christ hundreds of years before.

4. The Old Testament contains the P _____
The New Testament contains the F _____

5. **The Substance of the Gospel**

Read again verse 3 and 4, and then verse 9.
The substance of the Gospel is about two things

- i. G __ ‘ _ S __
ii. The G _____ of G __ ‘ _ S __

6. To grasp the full significance of this we need to see that in the first place the Gospel is NOT about -
D _____
T _____
R _____

P _____ of L _____

7. Read and consider 1 Corinthians 2:2

The Gospel is about a P _____

We do not preach C _____; we preach C _____

8. Read again verse 3 and 4. We are reminded about two things:

i. The H _____ of Christ.

ii. The D _____ of Christ

9. What are some of the human characteristics of Jesus?

He was a F _____

He learned to W _____, T _____, E _____, and T _____

He had a M _____, B _____, S _____ and G _____

He A _____, D _____, S _____, G _____, got W _____, endured P _____

and D _____

10. But Jesus was also God. Read the following.

John 8:23; John 8:42; John 8:51 and John 8:58

11. So, were the claims of Jesus to be God True or False?

Consider the implications of this.

12. **The Scope of the Gospel**

What is the scope of the Gospel?

For the answer to this read and consider again Romans 1:5

Final Thoughts

We may believe in the historicity and validity of the death of Christ
and the resurrection of Christ
not just because of the New Testament,
but also because of the Old Testament.
If you become a 'New Testament' Christian
you will miss its roots which are so important.

If the Gospel is not objectively true
then belief in Christ becomes just a matter of personal opinion or preference.
And if it is just a matter of personal opinion
it is no more valid than any other opinion.

We may have complete confidence in the Gospel.

Its source is the Old Testament Scriptures.
Its substance is Jesus Christ.
Its scope is the whole world.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 3 – The Dynamics of an Effective Church Romans 1:7 - 17

1. Read and consider Romans 1:7 – 17
What were the 2 things that this church in Rome was famous for all over the world?

Romans 1:8 F _____ in God

Romans 16:19 O _____ to God

2. This message will draw out 3 things about the church in Rome.

i. They were called to be S _____

ii. They were called to be S _____

iii. They were called to be S _____

3. **1. We are called to be 'Saints'.**

Who qualifies to be called 'saints'?

4. So, what makes us 'saints'?

i. We are I _____ b _ G _ _

ii. We are R _____ O _ H _ _ G _ _ _ _

iii. We E _____ H _ _ P _ _ _ _ .

5. **2. We are called to be Spiritual**

Read again verses 8 – 11

6. The church should operate in 3 spiritual directions.

i. U _____

ii. I _____

iii. O _____

7. **3. Called to be Servants**

Read verses 14 – 16 again and consider 3 points that made Paul a great servant.

- i. He felt O _____
- ii. He was E _____
- iii. He was N __ A _____

Final Thoughts

Paul was convinced that -
The Gospel is powerful
The Gospel is personal [for each individual]
The Gospel is Universal [for all types of people]

When we know we are obligated we will be eager,
and we will not be ashamed.

These are the Dynamics of an Effective Church.

They know who they are - Saints
They know how they function - Spiritual
They know what they must do - Servants

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 4 – The Goal of the Gospel Romans 1:16 - 17

1. Read and consider Romans 1:16 – 17

Is it true to say that in the Gospel a means to being forgiven is proclaimed? _____

Is it true to say that in the Gospel a means of getting to heaven is proclaimed? _____

Is it true to say the Gospel is a means of finding power to live? _____

2. What IS the main point of the statement made in these verses?
Read again and consider more

3. Romans is not primarily about salvation from

H _____ to H _____

G _____ to I _____

D _____ to L _____

But rather from U _____ to R _____

4. We will examine this under 3 headings

i. The E _____ of righteousness

ii. The S _____ of righteousness

iii. The R _____ of righteousness

5. **1. The Expression of righteousness**

What is righteousness?

Read and consider Romans 4:22 & 24 and Romans 5:17

6. Who is this righteousness intended for? Read and consider Genesis 1:26

7. What are the I _____ A _____ of God - that is, those characteristics of God that are NOT true of human beings?

- i. His O _____ - power
- ii. His O _____ - in all places
- iii. His O _____ - knowledge
- iv. His I _____ - never changes
- v. His E _____ N _____ - has no beginning or end

8. What are the C _____ A _____ of God - that is, the attributes that He has chosen to impart in us, His creation.

- i. His L _____
- ii. His J _____
- iii. His M _____
- iv. His K _____
- v. His R _____

9. **2. The Suppression of Righteousness**

Read and consider Romans 3:10

10. So, this brings us to what the Gospel is really all about –

3. Restoring the Righteousness of God

And what does that mean?

11. Read and consider 2 Corinthians 5:21

Final Thoughts

The first priority of the Gospel
is to restore the moral character of God
to the human experience.
This is a process, not instantaneous.

This is not, in the first place, about going somewhere,
but rather about **being something**.
It is about being reconciled to God and living in relationship with Him.
Read and consider Romans 3:21 – 22

Jesus Christ died to reconcile us to God and allowing Him to work in us.
**We are declared righteous ...
and then we grown in righteousness.**

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 5 – Now For The Bad News Romans 1:18 - 32

1. Read and consider Romans 1:18 – 32

What was the good news?

What is the bad news?

2. The wrath of God has been a stumbling block to many people, but we cannot understand the love of God until we properly understand His wrath.

Love and Wrath are not O _____, but P _____

3. We are much more interested in human ideas about God than we are in God's ideas about humanity. But the fact is, God is angry. Read Ephesians 2:3

4. **The Provocation of the Wrath of God**

On what grounds is God angry, and His wrath provoked?

Read and consider Romans 1:18, 21, 25 and 28

The issue is not that people are I _____ of God, but that they have

R _____ His revelation, and that they are D _____ to what they knew.

5. What did the people know? What was the revelation that they were aware of?

Read and consider - Romans 1:20, 21 and 32; Psalm 19:1 – 4

6. God has revealed Himself in Conscience

Read and consider Romans 2:12 - 15

If you go to any city of the world at any time in history you may not see

- great industry in every place
- great places of learning in every place
- great accumulation of wealth in every place.

But you WILL see E _____ of W _____

T _____, M _____, S _____, C _____, I _____

7. Paul's charge here is that people have –

T _____ a B _____ E ____ to C _____ and a D _____ E ____ to
C _____

The issue is not I _____

The issue is D _____

8. **The Demonstration of the Wrath of God**

This is found in two parts –

- The I _____ expression of God's wrath.
- The U _____ expression of God's wrath

9. The Immediate expression of God's wrath.

How does God express His wrath on us? Read and consider Romans 1:24, 26, 28b

10. The Ultimate expression of God's wrath.

Read and consider Romans 2:2, 5, 6 and 16

Final Thoughts

The problem with sin is not that it distorts you life,
messes you up, makes you a slave and leave you with scars;
it does all that,
but **sin provokes the wrath of God.**

**We will not understand the cross of Christ
until we understand God's anger.
The cross is a demonstration of God's anger with sin.**

**The Gospel involves escaping the wrath of God,
and being restored to the righteousness of God.**

*"There is a way back to God from the dark paths of sin.
There's a door that is open and you may go in.
At Calvary's cross is where you begin,
when you come as a sinner to Jesus."*

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 6 – The Judgment of God Romans 2:1 – 4 & 3:9 - 20

1. Read and consider Romans 2:1 – 4 and Romans 3:9 - 20
2. For our understanding; what were the Christians in Rome guilty of?
 - i. They did not G _____ God
 - ii. They did not G ____ T _____ to Him
 - iii. Their T _____ became F _____
 - iv. Their F _____ H _____ were D _____
 - v. They claimed to be W ____ but became F _____
 - vi. They E _____ the T _____ of God for a L ____
 - vii. They reaped the results of their P _____
3. i. God's Judgment is Impartial Re-read Romans 2:1 – 11 plus Matthew 7:3
God's Judgment is based on T _____ and does not show F _____
4. ii. God's Judgment is Internal Read and consider Romans 2:17
5. To make sure you fully understand read again verses 16, 25 & 28
E _____ R _____ becomes a substitute for I _____ R _____
Our P _____ becomes a substitute for our C _____
6. Read and consider Matthew 23:25 – 28
Our O _____ A _____ should be an expression of our
I _____ A _____
7. iii. God's Judgment is Inclusive Read and consider Romans 3:1 - 8
8. iv. God's Judgment is Irresistible Read and consider Romans 3:9 – 20

Final Thoughts

In these last verses that we have looked at
Paul is really pressing home his point
about the comprehensiveness of sin
by repeating everything;
this time substantiating it with quotes from the Old Testament.

**No one is righteous, not even one;
but through Christ we can be made righteous,
and then grow in righteousness.**

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations

Part 7– The Cross of Christ

Romans 3:21 - 31

1. As we continue this study in Romans today we look closely at what is the human dilemma and what is the solution to that dilemma.

The dilemma is found in Romans 3:10 What is it?

2. The solution to the dilemma is shown us in Romans 3:21 – 22. What is it?

3. How does this righteousness come? Read Romans 3:25

4. But why, and on what basis? This question is explained in two ways.

i. Through the Cross, God is S _____

ii. Through the Cross, people are J _____

- 5, i. Through the Cross, God is Satisfied.

It is very important that we understand this. But here is the question. For whom did Christ die?

Some would say - For the W _____

For S _____

For M _

6. What was the prime reason that made the cross necessary?

In the first instance, Jesus died for His F _____. He died for G _ _

7. Consider this statement which at first reading may shock you.

It is impossible for God to just forgive sin

Why is this statement true?

8. We have to understand two things about the character of God.

His J _ _ _ _ _ , and His M _ _ _ _ _

Do you know what the difference is between these two characteristics?

9. A very important question to ask is this; does God forgive on the basis of His Justice or His mercy? _____

10. ii. Through the Cross, People are Justified

Read again Romans 3:21 - 31

11. See Romans 5:6 While we were still P _ _ _ _ _ Christ died.

See Romans 5:8 While we were still S _ _ _ _ _ Christ died.

See Romans 5:10 While we were E _ _ _ _ _ we were reconciled.

Final Thoughts

In satisfying the just demands of God,
the death of Jesus **legally** removes sin,
and therefore removes guilt.

We come, not appealing to His mercy,
but appealing to His justice.

Christ has paid in full.

We are utterly dependent on God –
we contribute nothing!

To close read Romans 4:8, 5:1, 5:10a, 6:11 and 8:1

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 8 – Justification By Faith Romans 4:1 - 5 & 16 - 25

1. Read and consider Romans 4:1 – 5 and 16 - 25
2. There are no exceptions to the ‘judgment of God’; and we discussed the following –
 - i. There is no one R _____, not even one.
 - ii. There is no one who S _____ God.
 - iii. There is no one who D _____ G _____, not even one.

This would be an utterly depressing view of the human condition were it not for Romans 3:21 [Read and consider]

3. As we look more closely at Romans 4:4 – 5 we see that ‘justification’ is not something that we can earn.

Justification is credited to us as a G _____ which we receive by F _____.

4. Faith is a disposition of trust in something which then allows it to work and function on our behalf. So, what is ‘faith in God’?

5. i. The Object of Abraham’s faith. Read again Romans 4:17 - 18

6. So what exactly was the object of Abraham’s faith?

7. This is the same God about whom verse 17 tells us –

“ the God who gives life to the dead.’

“ the God who calls things that are not as though they are.”

8. ii. The Obstacles to Abraham’s faith. Read again Romans 4:19 – 20

9. We can either -
i. Look at our own situation, which is I _ _ _ _ _
ii. Listen to God and look to Him, which is P _ _ _ _ _
10. iii. The Opportunities released by Abraham's faith. Read Romans 4:21 - 25

Final Thoughts

In this study we learn to look beyond the obstacles
to the adequacy of God.

If God has promised something,
then let Him bring it about.

Faith is not you telling God what you want
and then expecting Him to do it
[or give you whatever you have asked for].

Faith is submitting to His will;
hearing His voice;
and acting upon His instructions according to His agenda –
not yours.

Allow God to work in you as only He can.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 9 – Three Good Reasons to Rejoice Romans 5:1 - 11

1. Read and consider Romans 5:1 – 11

What are the 3 things that we rejoice in according to these verses?

v.2 the H ___ of the G _____ of God.

v.3in our S _____

v.11 in G __ through J _____ C _____

2. So, we are going to look closely at Three Good Reasons to Rejoice.

1. We Rejoice in Our Position Romans 5:1 – 2a

3. What does it mean to be ‘reconciled’ with God?

4. **2. We Rejoice in our Prospects** Read verse 2b

Read also Romans 8:30 and 2 Corinthians 3:18

5. **3. Rejoice in our Problems** Romans 5:3 - 5

No one wants to have sufferings, let alone rejoice in them.

If you go to any good bookstore you will find books on how to -

H _____ your problems.

A _____ your problems.

M _____ your problems.

R _____ your problems.

G __ R __ of your problems.

But not on how to R _____ in your problems.

6. We need to look at how and why we respond to ‘sufferings’.
Read and consider Romans 8:17 – 18

7. i. **Suffering Produces** verse 3

8. ii. **Suffering Matures** 5:3 – 4

If suffering produces, what does it produce?

P _____, C _____ and H _____

9. iii. **Suffering Softens** verse 5

Final Thoughts

As a Christian it is very important that you know His peace;
that you enjoy it and are secure in it.

Suffering is either a creative force for something positive;
or a destructive force producing bitterness, anger and negativity.

Are you a rejoicing Christian, or a grumbling Christian?

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding the Foundations Part 10 – Two Streams of History: Adam & Christ Romans 5:12 - 21

1. Read and consider Romans 5:12 - 21
2. **The Stream from Adam** see verse 12 and Genesis 5:2
3. What happened to Adam? Genesis 5:15

4. Not only did Adam die spiritually, but he introduced what Paul calls
The R _____ of D _____ Romans 5:13 and 17
5. We could not inherit from Adam what he no longer possessed, so since Adam we
are all spiritually still-born – dead.
Read and consider Ephesians 2:1 and 3
6. Our condition is what theologians call T ___ F _____
7. For Adam, S ___ P _____ D _____ and was the C _____ of D _____
For us, D _____ P _____ S ___ and is the C _____ of S ___
8. This state of death is what Paul calls the W _____ of S ___ Romans 6:23
9. Being in this state gets into our E _____ and it gets into our W _____
10. It is important to understand this, because our understand of ‘sin’ and ‘the fall’ is
crucial to proper understanding of most other areas of human experience such as –
S _____ - how society operate.
P _____ - how individuals operate.
T _____ - how God operates.

11. **The Stream from Christ**

This is both the C _____ O _____ of the stream from Adam,
and it R _____ the stream from Adam.

From Adam's D _____ comes D _____ and S _____.

From Christ's O _____ comes L _____ and G _____.

Read verse 19b and then verse 18

Final Thoughts

The reason for getting rid of sin is not to make us clean
[that is necessary but it is only a means to an end].
Getting rid of sin is removing the dirt in order to impart life by the Holy Spirit.

Read Romans 5:10

Did you know there is something much more
than being reconciled to God by the death of Christ?
It is being saved by His life!

This life is what Adam had lost!

The stream from Adam is about guilt and death;
whereas the stream from Christ is about justification that brings life.

**All of us are being governed either by the heredity traits of Adam
or the heredity traits of Christ.**

**The purpose of the gospel is to restore the life of God
to the soul of human beings,
so that He might live within us
and be the source of our righteousness
– ie. our behaviour.**

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 11 – How To Be Holy Romans 6:1 - 14

1. Read and consider Romans 6:1 – 14

What are the 2 extreme attitudes to sin expressed by Christians in Romans 6?

L _____ and L _____

2. How would you define Legalism?

Give some examples that are found in some churches today.

3. How do you define 'License'?

4. What was Paul's opinion of Legalism? Read Romans 6:14

What was Paul's opinion of License? Read Romans 6:15

5. **There is something we need to Know.**

Read the following scriptures.

Romans 6:3; and 6:16

Romans 6:2 and 6:5, 6, 8 and 11

6. What does it mean to have 'died with Christ' and to have 'died to sin'?

These two 'deaths' are linked in verse 6. Read it.

7. What does it mean to have 'died with Christ'? Romans 6:5

8. What does it mean to have 'died to sin'? Romans 6:2, 6 – 7 and 11

9. It is not just about 'dying for sin', but also about 'living to God'. Romans 6:4

10. **There is something we need to DO** Verses 12 – 13

These verses speak of - I _____ of W _____
I _____ of R _____

Final Thoughts

The answer to sin is not to counter it by Legalism [just keeping rules].
Nor is it to counter it by License [living any way that you want].

Sin should be countered by LIFE;
by allowing the Life of God – His Holy Spirit –
to flow through you making you an instrument of righteousness.

Imagine yourself as a musical instrument in the hands of a skilled musician.
It is the Holy Spirit who plays the instrument of righteousness in us.

Finally, read Romans 12:1

8. How does Slavery to Sin start? Verse 16

9. How does this slavery continue? Verse 19 and 1 Timothy:18 – 20

10. How can you know that you have damaged your conscience?

11. How does sin Culminate? Verse 21 and Numbers 32:23

12. **Slavery to God** – the alternative to slavery to sin.
How does slavery to God start? Romans 6:17 – 18

13. How does this continue? Romans 6:16 & 18 and Romans 8:5 – 6

14. How does slavery to God culminate? Verse 22

Final Thoughts

We need to understand that we are brought into Union with Christ
in order that we become instruments of righteousness.

How do we do that?

By yielding ourselves in obedience as slaves to God.
This is a voluntary slavery because we have no control,
but we do have a choice.

Everything we do, every ambition we hold,
how we spend our money, how we use our time,
will express the choice we make.

None of us are really free . . . other than to choose our Master.
Everything else in our life will be an outcome of that choice.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 13 – Dead to the Law Romans 7:1 - 13

1. Read and consider Romans 7:1 - 13

Can you identify one of the main themes in this passage?

B _____ the P _____ of the L _____

2. What is the point of being released from the 'law'?

3. **1. What is the Purpose of the Law?**

What are the 3 kinds of law?

C _____; C _____; M _____

4. Can anyone say that they have not broken at least one of the 10 Commandments?

Read again Romans 7:10 _____

5. Why has God given us a law that puts us in such a dilemma?

Why have a law we cannot keep?

6. Read 1 John 3:4 and Romans 3:23

What do we learn from this?

The L _____ of God and the G _____ of God are the S _____ T _____

7. To answer the question, "Why is the law of God what it is?", we need to ask: "What is the glory of God." Read John 1:14

8. If the Law of God equals the Glory of God then we can say that;

The 10 Commandments were given to reveal what God is like so human beings know what we are to be like made in His image.

Does this mean that God knew we could not keep the 10 Commandments?

9. **2. The Problem with the Law** Read verse 12

The problem with the Law is that it is E _____

It can D _____, but it cannot A _____

10. **3. The Passing of the Law.** Read again verses 4 and 6

11. How do we get released from the law? Read again Romans 7:1 – 4
-
-

Final Thoughts

Our desperate need is for something more than external rules with their system of rewards, punishment and incentives.

We need LIFE – life that is INTERNAL.

The law has been worked out to the full.

It has **exposed our sin**, it has **condemned us**, carried out **its sentence**, and **we have died** in our union with Christ.

The law, that looked good, could only produce the sentence of death.

This death was carried out in Christ.

Its demands have been fully met, its consequences paid for.

**Through death with Jesus Christ
our indebtedness to the law has been fully paid.
Now we are released to a new relationship – with the Spirit.**

There is a lot of death in this part of Romans.

Chapter 5 – Christ died for me.

Chapter 6 – We died to sin.

Chapter 7 – We died to the law.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 14 – Two Spiritual Laws Romans 7:15 - 25

1. Read and consider Romans 7:15 - 25

2. **1. The Law of Sin and Death** Romans 7:15 - 20

This chapter has provoked much discussion and controversy, particularly in the realm of holiness/dealing with sin.

Who is Paul talking about here?

1 Is it a N ___ - _____, not yet B ___ of the S _____?

2 Is it a D _____, B _____ C _____?

3 Is it a description of the N _____ C _____ E _____?

3. Most people would say it is number 3, referring to Romans 7:18, 22 and 25.

But look at verses 17 & 20. What does this sound like?

4. If it is wrong to use this as an excuse; what then DOES it mean?

5. Read again and consider what Romans 7:18 means.

6. Unless we believe what it says in verse 18 we will try to –

i. R _____ ourselves.

ii. Hold on to the hope that one day we will manage to C _____

iii. WE will make P _____ to God that ‘from now on we will be good etc.’

7. Despite our G _____ I _____ we will F _____

8. According to James 1:14 and 4:1, what must we guard against?

9. **2. The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus** Read 1 John 3:9 & 5:18

10. Does this not conflict with 1 John 1:8?

Final Thoughts

Remember – every sin we commit we do so because we want to.
We can not be like Eve or Adam
who tried to shift the blame onto someone else.

This would all be very depressing
were it not for the fact that Jesus Christ came
to break the power of sin over us.

In our union with Christ we are equipped to be Christ-like.
He gives us strength, but it is never our strength –
always HIS strength.

So do not ask the Lord to GIVE you strength.
The Lord IS our strength.

To close read –

Exodus 15:2	Psalm 28:7
Psalm 118:14	Isaiah 12:2
Isaiah 33:2	Habakkuk 3:19

It is the LORD who is your strength – not you!

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 15 – Living In The Spirit Romans 8:1 - 16

1. Read and consider Romans 8:1 - 16

2. We will look at 3 things –

- i. The Spirit and the F _ _ _ _ Romans 8:1 - 4
- ii. The Spirit and the M _ _ _ Romans 8:5 - 11
- ii. The Spirit and the W _ _ _ Romans 8:12 - 16

3. i. **The Spirit and the Flesh** Romans 8:1 - 4

Before we continue, we need to understand that the Greek word 'sarx' literally means 'flesh'; but the NIV translation avoids using that word because of the possibility of confusion between 'flesh' as the corrupt human nature [which is the intended meaning here] or 'flesh' as referring to the human body.

4. In our last study we talked about the two spiritual Laws –

- i. The Law of S _ _ and D _ _ _ _
- ii. The Law of the S _ _ _ _ of L _ _ _ in C _ _ _ _ J _ _ _ _

5. Now we encounter a third spiritual law. Read Romans 8:3 – 4

The M _ _ _ _ law contained in the 10 Commandments God gave to Moses.

6. What was C _ _ _ _ _ under the W _ _ _ _ _ L _ _ becomes a P _ _ _ _ _ under the L _ _ of the S _ _ _ _

7. Read the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20:2 – 17, but read it as promises rather than commands.

8. ii. **The Spirit and the Mind** Romans 8:5 – 11

There are two kinds of Christians mentioned here.

- i. Those who live according to the S _ _ _ _ _
- ii. Those who live according to the F _ _ _ _

9. Read Romans 12:2 and Proverbs 23:7. What do we learn from these verses?
The M ___ is C _____
10. How can our minds be brought into harmony with the Spirit?
Read Psalm 119:9 & 11
- i. Through the W ___ of God.
11. iii. **The Spirit and the Will** Romans 8:12 - 16

Final Thoughts

When we live by the 'law' we discover our inability to obey,
because we are trying to live by the 'flesh' [by human ability];
and we discover the truth of Romans 8:7
"the sinful mind is hostile to God.
It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so."

- We need to take seriously the conflict between the Flesh and the Spirit.
 - We need to set our MINDS on the things of the Spirit.
 - We need our WILLS to put to death the things of the flesh
by the enabling of the Spirit.

**We cannot express too strongly how vitally important it is
to Develop a Devotional Life.**

**Even Jesus, when tempted by Satan in the wilderness,
responded SOLELY by quoting the Scripture.**

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 16 – The Spirit of Hope Romans 8:16 - 25

1. Read and consider Romans 8:16 – 25
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:13 What are the 3 great virtues?
F _____ H _____ L _____
3. How do we define the word, 'Hope'? It has 2 meanings.
 - i. It could be W _____ T _____
 - ii. It could be C _____ E _____
4. The context in which Paul is writing about hope is
 - i. U _____ S _____ verse 22
 - ii. P _____ S _____ verse 23
5. But then Paul qualifies this in verses 17 & 18
6. In verse 17 Suffering and Glory are compared – seen as similar.
Read Hebrews 5:8
Philippians 3:10
Romans 5:3 - 5
7. In verse 18 Suffering and Glory are contrasted – seen as opposites.
Read Verse 18 again & 2 Corinthians 4:17
8. If suffering is a fact of life, what suffering are we talking about in Romans 8?
 - i. U _____ and G _____ Verse 22
 - ii. P _____ and I _____ Verse 23
9. 1. **Creation is Groaning** Verse 22
What does that mean?

10. The decay is not the fault of creation. Verse 20
It was cursed by God as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:17
But what is going to happen? Isaiah 65:17, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1
-
-

11. 2. **The Christian is Groaning** Verse 23

Read Ephesians 1:13

12. It is very important that we understand, and hold in right balance, the NOW and the NOT YET of Christian experience.

13. We will quickly look at 5 areas of Christian Experience where there is both a NOW and a NOT YET dimension.

a. **Intellectually** - Area of knowledge.

Now - God has revealed Himself.
Romans 1:20 says "We are without excuse".
No need to flounder in darkness.

Not Yet - We do not know Him as He knows us.
Paul says, "Now we see in a mirror darkly."
John says, "We do not yet know what we are going to be."

b. **Morally** - Area of Behaviour

Now - Romans 8:9. There is the fruit of the Spirit;
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self control.
Christ-likeness is growing in our Character.
We are being changed from one degree of glory to another.

Not Yet - Our Fallen nature has not been eradicated.
We are not yet completely conformed to the image of His Son.
We are not yet perfect.

c. **Socially** - Area of society

Now - We are already salt and light and have influence.

Not Yet - Revelation 11:15 and Micah 4:3
Although this text is on the wall of the entrance hall to the

United Nations, this will never be true in the present era.

- d. **Physically** - Area of health and physical well-being
- Now - Death has been conquered. Isaiah 53
Matthew 8:17 applies to the healing ministry of Jesus
- Not Yet - We continue to decay, age and die.
Romans 8:23
Our bodies are not yet redeemed.
We WILL be physically perfected one day – but not yet.
- e. **Spiritually** - Area of perfection of the church
- Now - We are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ – we are part of the church. 1 Timothy 3:15
- Not Yet - We are not yet a perfect church here on earth as Revelation 19:7 says one day we will be.

Final Thoughts

Hope is not wishful thinking, but rather confident expectation.

Hope is important, but hopelessness is destructive.

However, sometimes the realities of our present circumstances appear to stand in direct contradiction to the promises of God.

**We need to be confident of what is NOW,
and patient about what is NOT YET – but will be one day!**

**So we live by Faith for the present,
and we live in HOPE for the future.**

Do you face each day with hope?
It is actually the source of joy and peace.
Romans 15:13

Romans 8 is about the work of the Holy Spirit.

We enjoy all the resources of His presence in us.
It is the Spirit who testifies within us to the hope ahead.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Steps To Freedom Part 17 – The Key to Security Romans 8:26 - 32

1. Read and consider Romans 8:26 - 32
2. What are the 3 key questions asked by Paul?
 1. Verse 31 _____
 2. Verse 33 _____
 3. Verse 35 _____

3. This study will focus on the first of these questions. Romans 8:31
The Key to our Security

To help in our understanding read and consider Romans 8:28

This is a well-known popular verse that we often use to comfort ourselves or send to other people to comfort them, but do we really have a proper understanding of what it means?

4. What is the subject of Romans 8:28 – Is it the ‘things’ that work for good or is the subject ‘God’ who works for good?
There is a huge difference between the two.

5. There are three sources of evil that we have to contend with.
 - i. S _ _ _ _ _ sources of evil. Read Romans 1:13: 1 Thessalonians 2:18
2 Corinthians 12:7
 - ii. H _ _ _ _ sources of evil. Read Romans 1:18
 - iii. N _ _ _ _ _ sources of evil Read Romans 8:20 & 22

6. Romans 8:28 has 2 important criteria in it:
 - i. H _ _ _ _ criteria.
 - ii. D _ _ _ _ _ criteria

7. Now read and consider Romans 8:30
So we are C _ _ _ _ _ , J _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and G _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

8. i. We are CALLED - to what?

9. ii. We are JUSTIFIED

10. iii. We are GLORIFIED

11. To be J _ _ _ _ _ is a P _ _ _ T _ _ _ E _ _ _ _

To be G _ _ _ _ _ is a F _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ _ E _ _ _ _

To be S _ _ _ _ _ is a P _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ P _ _ _ _

Final Thoughts

We should be encouraged by these words in Romans 8

Verse 26a He helps us in our trepidation.

Verse 26b He helps us in our intercession.

Verse 27 He helps us in our motivation.

And then follows that wonderful verse 28.

**It is God who works,
no matter what kind of things come into our experience.**

**How do we respond to trouble?
We submit every situation to the Lordship of Christ.
And we say with Paul [Romans 8:31]
*If God is for us, who can be against us?***

So who can possibly mess you up this week?

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Steps To Freedom Part 18 – No Condemnation Romans 8:31 - 34

1. Read and consider Romans 8:31 - 34

In the closing verses of Romans 8 Paul asked 3 crucial questions.
Do you remember what they are?

1. Verse 31 _____
2. Verse 33 _____
3. Verse 35 _____

2. Who is it that C _____ and C _____ the people of God?
And why does this issue of C _____ come up?

3. We are going to look at 3 questions.

- i. Who is our A _____?
ii. Who is our D _____?
iii. Who is our J _____?

4. i. **Who is our Accuser?** Read Revelation 12:10 & 12

5. What is the difference between Condemnation and Conviction?

6. ii. **Who is our Defender?** Read Romans 8:34 and then 1 John 2:1 – 2

7. In a court scene G __ is the J _____

Y __ are in the dock

The D _____ is the A _____

J _____ C _____ is the D _____ L _____

8. iii. **Who is the Judge?**

9. So what is the basis upon which we are judged? Read Romans 8:1 and Isaiah 61:10

Final Thoughts

Many Christians have been listening to the devil,
believing his accusations and his lies.

If you are in Christ

- if you have come to the cross in true repentance
- if you have been cleansed

Resist the devil; do not let him get a foothold in you.

Remember – in the wilderness Jesus resisted the devil
exclusively with the use of the Word of God.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Steps To Freedom Part 19 – More Than Conquerors Romans 8:35 - 39

1. Read Romans 8:35 – 39

We now deal with the third of the trilogy of questions that were introduced during our previous 2 studies.

Review what these questions are. Verses 31, 33 and now verse 35

2. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Romans 8:35

This question suggests 3 things –

- i. The F _____ about His love.
- ii. The F _____ about His love.
- iii. F _____ in His Love.

3. i. **The Facts about His love.**

There is O _____ K _____ of God's love.

And there is S _____ K _____ of God's love.

4. Explain the Objective knowledge about God's love. Read Romans 5:8

5. Explain the Subjective knowledge about God's love. Read Romans 5:5

6. ii. **Fears about His love.**

Romans 8:35 lists 7 nasty things that threaten us and hurt us.

1. T _____

2. H _____
3. P _____
4. F _____
5. N _____
6. D _____
7. The S _____

Why do you think Paul lists these things?

7. Consider this old philosophical argument.

Why do people say “God cannot be ‘all-powerful’ and ‘good’ at the same time.”

8. Does our suffering violate His love for us?

Does God’s love for us mean that we will live a pain-free life, and that that is an indication of God’s love for us.? Read 2 Corinthians 11:24 – 28 and compare with Romans 8:35

9. iii. **Faith in His love.** Read Romans 8:37

10. So what IS Paul talking about?

- i. Not about living U _____ our circumstances
- ii. Not about living A _____ our circumstances
- ii. But rather about living ____ our circumstances

Final Thoughts

Our subjective experiences of God
differ according to our personalities and backgrounds.
Inhibitions also differ which contribute to this.
So never try to imitate the experience of other people.
God is original.

Many people have had an experience of God
that has revolutionized their lives;
but we should never ask 'have you experienced what they experienced?'.
You are different.

But we can ask: 'do you have this inner witness of the Spirit?'

If you do not know this inner sense of God's love
poured into your hearts by the Holy Spirit,
the love of God may be an article in your creed,
but it will not be a power in your life!

Very often it is only when we are IN trouble / difficulty
that we discover the love of God as so much more real
than when things are going well.

We only experience His comfort – when we need comforting.
We only experience His security – when we are afraid.
We only experience His presence – when we feel alone.

To conclude Read Romans 8:38 – 39

NOTHING can separate us from the love of God.
Life will still hurt us from time to time;
we will still have reasons to weep,
we will still feel pain.

But God has not reneged on any of the promises that He has made to us.
In the midst of everything, 'we are more than conquerors'
because of the **unfailing love of God** towards us.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 20 – God’s Strategy In Human History Romans 9:21 - 25, 10:1 and 11:1 - 6

1. Read Romans 9:21 – 25; 10:1 and 11:1 - 6
2. We are going to look at 3 main points.
 - i. **God’s choice of Israel is about Purpose not Privilege.**
Read Romans 9:1 – 3
What is the amazing statement made by Paul?

3. We need to remind ourselves that Paul is motivated by two forces:
 - i. P _____ for G ____
 - ii. C _____ for P _____Read Romans 9:4 - 5
4. Paul lists 8 benefits that belong to the Jews.
 - i. There is the A _____ as S _____
 - ii. There is the D _____ G _____
 - iii. The C _____
 - iv. The R _____ of the L _____
 - v. The T _____ W _____
 - vi. The P _____
 - vii. The P _____
 - viii. The H _____ A _____ of C _____
5. Blessing the world [Gentiles] was the object – not an afterthought.
Read John 1:11
6. How might the Church of Jesus Christ make the same mistake?

7. So what are we called to be?
You are the S _ _ _ of the earth.
You are the L _ _ _ _ of the world.
8. And what are we called to do? Read Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8
Then read Romans 10:13 – 15
-
-

Final Thoughts

The great tragedy of Israel in Paul's day is that they missed their purpose;
and that can be our tragedy too!

Whether you are a missionary, bus driver, teacher, garbage collector,
doctor, full time mother, musician, student, journalist, retired –

- i. God has a role for you in the world.
- ii. God has sovereignly chosen His path for your life.
- iii. God has sovereignly entrusted you with His gifts for the task.
- iv. He has a unique role for you in His Church.

Here are the practical issues arising from this study.

**Are we missing the purpose of being chosen by God
as His instruments in the world?**

We need to get on God's agenda.

Are we finding our personal role in His plan?

What does God want me to do. Am I doing it?

Are we exercising the faith of Abraham?

A faith that is willing to step out on a limb
and let God be God in us.

This is God's Strategy in Human History

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 21 – Present Your Bodies To God Romans 12:1 - 2

1. Read and consider Romans 12:1 - 2
2. This word 'therefore' is like a hinge on a door.
One side is attached to what has gone before.
The other side is attached to what is coming.

What has gone before are 9 chapters of D _____

This is teaching about what it means to be in relationship with God;
The 4 keys words being –

- i. R _____ to God
- ii. J _____ by faith
- iii. C _____ with Christ
- iv. S _____ by the Holy Spirit

Then Chapters 12 – 16 contain 5 chapters of E _____ I _____
The practical outworking of doctrine.

3. Some Christians are primarily interested in doctrine. What are the implications?

Other are primarily interested in the practical aspects. What are the implications?

4. As we look closely at these two verses we will consider 3 things that emerge.
 - i. Two R _____
 - ii. Two R _____
 - iii. Two R _____

5. **Request # 1 – Present your body as a Living Sacrifice** Romans 12:1

6. Read and consider Ephesians 5:10 & Hebrews 11:6. What pleases God?

7. **Request # 2 – Do not conform to the pattern of this world** Romans 12:2

Read and consider also 1 John 2:15 - 16

8. **Two Reasons**

i. It is your S _____ act of W _____

ii. It is your R _____ S _____

9. **Two Results**

Personal and Corporate

10. How do we know the will of God? Read James 7:17

11. All Paul has taught in the earlier part of Romans is so that this end result may be possible; that we live in the will of God.

- It is G ____ - that does not mean E ____
- It is P _____ - that does not mean C _____
- It is P _____ - that does not mean it is what we would have planned

Final Thoughts

There was not enough time to deal with the second result –

God in the Corporate life.

But in the future we will look at:

- i. Discovering the will of God in the **Church** - Romans 12:3 – 8
- ii. Discovering the will of God in **Society** - Romans 12:9 – 21
- iii. Discovering the will of God in **Government** - Romans 13:1 - 14

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 22 – Discovering the Will of God In the Church Romans 12:3 - 21

1. Read and consider Romans 12:3 – 21

The Church is characterized by three things:

- i. C _____
- ii. H _____
- iii. S _____

2. i. **The Church Characterized By Community** Romans 12:4 - 8

How is the Church like the human body?

3. There is D _____ of G _____ yet U _____ of P _____

4. In the body we are different. Read 1 Corinthians 12:13 – 18

5. What are the three areas of ministry of the Church?

- i. P _____ ministry
- ii. P _____ ministry
- iii. P _____ ministry

6. In the Body we are Dependant on each other. Romans 12:5

7. What are two big dangers in the church?

8. ii. **The Church Characterized by Humility** Romans 12:3

Verse 3b warns against I _____ thinking, and calls for S _____ thinking.
Read also Romans 1:1

Here Paul Displays H _____, but also C _____

9. iii. **The Church Characterized by Simplicity** Romans 12:9 – 21

Final Thoughts

We have to realize that our relationship with God
is not a private affair between just you and God.
Privatizing our Christian life
is one of the biggest mistakes that we could make
as it stunts growth.

Your Christian life is between God and you,
plus me, plus the rest of us, plus the world.
Jesus does not just save individuals,
each in their small corner,
but having saved them He adds them to His church.

This is why we have looked at three things
that characterize a Church that is functioning in the will of God.

**The Church is not a club for like-minded Christians who
have nothing better to do on Sunday mornings.**

**The Church is an indispensable part of the strategy of God for the world.
Everyone of us has been called, gifted and equipped
to serve His purposes in the world.**

**If God is responsible for our gifts [strengths]
He is also responsible for our weaknesses.
In giving gifts, He also gave us weakness.
As important as it is to be aware of what we CAN do,
we need also to be aware of what we CANNOT do.**

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 23 – The Christian And Secular Government Romans 13:1 - 7

1. Read and consider Romans 13:1 - 7

This passage raises 3 general issues.

- i. Government is O _____ by God Romans 13:1 – 2
- ii. Government is to be O _____ by us Romans 13:1 – 2
- iii. Government is to O _____ for G _____ Romans 13:3 - 7

2. i. **Government is Ordained by God**

Read separately and consider individually:

Romans 13:1a; Romans 13:1b; Romans 13:2;
Romans 13:4; Romans 13:6

3. Read Genesis 1:26 What does this tell you?

Read Psalm 8:6 What does this tell you?

4. What exactly has God ordained?

It is the P _____ of Government that God has ordained.

5. What are the 3 general forms of government?

- i. D _____
- ii. M _____
- iii. D _____

6. There are limits to government Read and consider Matthew 22:21

7. What does belong to Caesar?

The right to P _____ verse 4b

The right to T _____ verse 6

The right to R _____ verse 7

8. ii. **Government is to be Obeyed by us.** Romans 13:1, 2 & 5

Read also Titus 3:1 and 1 Peter 2:13 – 14

9. Here now are some questions to spark debate!

a. What about times when we cannot in good conscience obey state authorities?

b. What about being a Pacifist in a time of conscription?

c. What about possessing a Bible when to do so is illegal?

d. Is civil disobedience ever permissible?

Read Acts 4:18 – 20 and then Acts 5:29 What do we deduce from this?

10. iii. **Government is to Operate for good.** Romans 13:3 – 7

There are 3 sections here.

i. God has given G _____ the responsibility to punish.

ii. God has given P _____ the responsibility to punish.

iii. God has given H _____ the responsibility to punish.

Final Thoughts

Some cultures are actually much more respectful than western culture.

Some of you come from wonderfully respectful cultures;
and sadly some of that has been lost in the Western World.

However, **respect is a Christian virtue, not a cultural one.**

We may disagree with our government – even profoundly –
but they are still entitled to our respect. So remember:

**Government is Ordained by God
Government is to be Obeyed by us
Government is to Operate for Good**

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 24 – The Law Is About Love Romans 13:8 - 14

1. Read and consider Romans 13:8 - 14
2. It is important that we remind ourselves of the context of this statement in verse 8. Paul has presented in Romans the heart and substance of the gospel.
It is about R _____ the R _____ of God to human experience.
Paul has explained this T _____ in chapter 1 – 11,
and from Chapter 12 he explains it E _____
True B _____ always leads to the right B _____
D _____ always leads to D _____
R _____ in Christ always leads to R _____ in the world
3. Paul now comes to talking about – **how we relate to individuals.**
God does not relate to us C _____ as a block called H _____.
Although He created the world, He created YOU individually.
Read Psalm 139:15 – 16
4. **1. Our Debt to the World** Romans 13:8 – 10
Our debt is a debt of love.
What are the 4 things that Paul says about love in these verses?

5. What should our response be to failure and sin? Read John 12:47

6. Consider some typical Christian responses to some of the sins and failures that are prevalent in our society today.

7. If we are to show care, compassion and love to sinners, does sin matter to God?
Does He get angry at Sin? Does He condemn sin?

8. So what is this DEBT that we owe to the world?

Final Thoughts

It is amazing what we will do for love!
Love is the greatest motivation in the world!
We can never serve God well
if we just see Him as a Lord and Master to be served;
but when we **love Him with all our heart, souls and strength**,
everything we do will become an expression of the fact:
We Love God!

Do people know **you** are a disciple of Jesus?
- not because you have a testimony
-not because you were baptized
- not because you have a position in the church
But because you love?

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 25 – Legalism and Liberty Romans 14:1 - 23

1. Read and consider Romans 14:1 - 23

Name some of the things that cause division in the church today.

Divisions can usually come under 3 categories

- i. D _____ issues
 - ii. E _____ issues
 - iii. P _____ P _____
2. In this chapter Paul is dealing with the ‘secondary issues’ that upset us and even divide us.

From this chapter we see these secondary issues as not being between:

R _____ and W _____

but being between the W _____ and the S _____

3. We will look at these issues under 3 headings:

- i. R _____ the problem
- ii. R _____ to the problem
- iii. R _____ the problem

4. **1. Recognizing the Problem**

What is the problem [disputable matters] that Paul recognizes in verses 2

5. Read again verse 2 and consider the importance of what that is saying.
6. Another disputable matter is found in verse 5 and it refers to ‘sacred days’.
Is Paul talking about the Sabbath? Read Galatians 4:9 – 11
Name some special seasons/months that are observed in the Jewish calendar, and some observed in the Christian calendar.

7. What did Paul and Jesus have to say about these two issues?
Read Colossians 2:16 and Matthew 15:11

8. **2. Responding to the problem**

Here are two questions.

- i. How would you define 'legalism'?

- ii. How would you identify legalism? Read verses 3 and 10

9. **3. Rectifying the problem**

Paul gives us 4 principles:

- i. We are to be C _____ Read verses 4, 6 and 12
10. ii. We are to be C _____ Read verse 5 and 1 Timothy 1:19
11. iii. We are to be C _____ Read Romans 14:14 - 15
12. iv. We are to be C _____ t Read Romans 14:22 - 23

Final Thoughts

Keeping rules can be useful to a baby Christian who wants to please God but doesn't know how, so they inevitably look for some rules to follow. This is understandable – even important – with a new Christian.

It's OK at the start of your Christian life to live by the rules as this can help you to get your bearings.

However, this can be a little bit like 'painting by numbers'. If you are still 'painting by numbers' as you get further in your Christian life then your growth has stalled.

As you become more mature as a Christian, in developing a mature intimate relationship with Christ you should allow Him by His spirit to guide and direct you; so **you do not live by the rules, but you live by the Spirit.**

The 'rules' still apply,
but your attitude towards them,
and the motivation towards keeping them, changes

The bottom line of this chapter is:

**Bring God into every detail of your life.
Live every part of your life in the spirit of faith in God.
Enjoy the freedom you have in Christ!**

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 26 – Developing a Ministry Mentality Romans 15:1 - 16

1. Read and consider Romans 15:1 - 16

2. Read John 7:37 – 39

What does Jesus mean when He says, “streams of living water will flow from within him.”?

3. How is the body of Christ – the Church – built up?

4. **Four Areas of Ministry in Healthy Christian Growth**

i. We minister by **Pleasing our Neighbour** Romans 15:1 - 3

5. ii. We minister by **Praising God** Romans 15:5 – 15

If Pleasing God is a H _____ dimension,
then Praising God has a V _____ dimension.

6. Verse 5 talks of _____

Verse 6 talks of _____

Verse 7 talks of _____

7. In a large church such as The Peoples Church the congregation is made up of a combination of people who would probably never meet in any other context than the Church of Jesus Christ. There are:

- * Many nationalities
- * All ages
- * New Christians, long term Christians
- * Married, single, widowed and divorced
- * Some are in the ‘early morning of life’
- * Many cultures
- * Some richer, some poorer
- * Some Healthy, some sick
- * For others the ‘sun is setting’

What is the common denominator in such variety?

8. iii. We minister by **Proclaiming the Gospel** Romans 15:16 – 29

Break down and consider these verses separately:

Romans 15:14

Romans 15:19

Romans 15:15 – 16

Romans 15:20

Romans 15:17

Romans 15:23 - 29

9. So whose job is it to preach the Gospel?

Pastors?

Evangelists?

Those who are employed by the church?

We pay professionals and they evangelize on behalf of all of us – right?

10. iv. **We minister by Praying for others** Romans 15:30 - 33

Final Thoughts

In last week's study we learned that weak Christians have strong convictions about secondary things, but now we learn that those who are strong have **a spiritual and moral obligation to not think of their own needs, but rather of the needs of the weak.** This is one of the marks of being strong.

This is the bottom line, that in all situations, at all times, we seek not to please ourselves, but God, and we please God by:

**Pleasing our neighbour.
Praising God
Proclaiming the Gospel
Praying for others**

Developing this 'ministry mentality' will enable us to mature and grow as healthy Christians.

Message Guide & Questions

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 27 – All Together Now Romans 16:1 - 27

1. Read and consider Romans 16:1 – 27

We come now to the final chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans.

2. How would you describe this last chapter of Romans?

3. i. **The People Who Constitute the Church** Romans 16:1 – 16 & 21 - 24

Paul identifies 29 people in Rome, plus 8 people who sent greetings from Corinth. In all, 37 people identified by Paul in this chapter.

What do we know about these people?

4. a. **Small Group Meetings of the Church in Rome**

Read verses 5, 10, 11, 14 and 15 What do we learn from this?

5. b. **The Active Women in the Church in Rome**

6. **Phoebe** Verse 1

7. **Priscilla** Verse 3

8. **Mary** Verse 6

9. **Junais** Verse 7

10. **Tryphena and Tryphosa** Verse 12

11. **Persis** Verse 12

- 12. **Rufus' mother** Verse 13
- 13. **Julia and Nereus' sister** Verse 15
- 14. The early church was impacted by these faithful hardworking women, and it would be the same today.

List some areas of the church today that would not be the same were it not for women.

- A lot of P _____ M _____ would close if not for women.
- A lot of M _____ W _____ would collapse if not for women.
- A lot of S _____ S _____ work would fold if not for women.
- A lot of E _____ would be missing if not for women.

- 15. ii. **The Problems which Disrupt the Church** Romans 16:17 - 20
Paul warns about division, and those who put obstacles in the way.

- 16. So what is the primary root cause of division in the church? Read Romans 16:18

- 17. iii. **The Priorities which Guide the Church** Romans 16:25 – 27

This is the great final summing up of the entire book of Romans,

Final Thoughts

Our Final Thoughts for this last of the 27 messages covering the book of Romans should be the same as –

Paul's Final Word

**Our MESSAGE is Christ
Our AUTHORITY is Scripture
Our OBJECTIVE is World Evangelism**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 1 – A Wholesome Self-image Romans 1:1 - 6

- 1, This is the first of 27 studies concerning Rebuilding the Foundations of the Church.
2.
 - i. **Answering Questions**
 - ii. **Correcting Errors**
 - iii. **Resolving Problems**
 - iv. **Giving Instructions**
 - v. **Reprimanding Individuals**
3. He is writing to a **Church** he **didn't know** in a **City** he had **never visited**.
4. In this letter Paul needs to give a comprehensive and systematic explanation of the Gospel because the church in Rome desperately needed to rediscover its message.
5.
 - i. He is a **Servant** of **Jesus Christ**.
 - ii. He is **Called** to be an **Apostle**.
 - iii. He is '**set apart**' for the **Gospel**.

These three things make for a wholesome, healthy, self-image.

6.
 - i. A servant is **Directed** by his **Master's Plans**.

Paul is acting under orders, subject entirely to his Master's direction. This is liberating! Every day, Someone who knows what is going on, Whose plans are good, is directing his activities. Would you not like that for yourself?
Read and consider also – Romans 1:5; 6:22; and 12:1

7.
 - ii. A servant is **Dependent** on his **Master's Provision**.

Paul knew that for everything his Master directed him to do, the Master would provide the resources. That is why nothing ever frightened Paul.
Can you say the same?

8.
 - iii. A servant is **Determined** by his **Master's Programme**.

Paul's attitude was; things may go wrong for me, but I don't care about that, because the Lord Jesus will be accomplishing His purpose.
Can you say the same?

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 2 – The Source & Scope of the Gospel Romans 1:1 - 6

1.
 - i. Its **Source** - where it comes from.
 - ii. Its **Substance** - what it is about.
 - iii. Its **Scope** - who it is for
2. The Gospel did NOT begin with Jesus Christ.
It has deep roots in history and prophecy long before Christ.
3. Jesus is not the **Founder** of Christianity [as we call it], but rather He is the **Fulfiller** of the **Promises** and **Prophecies** that were made about Christ hundreds of years before.
4. The Old Testament contains the **Promises**.
The New Testament contains the **Fulfillment**.

It would be good to memorize this little ditty:

*The New is in the old concealed;
The Old is in the new revealed.*

5. The substance of the Gospel is about two things
 - i. **God's Son.**
 - ii. The **Gospel of God's Son.**
6. In the first place the Gospel is NOT about - **Doctrine**
Theory
Religion
Philosophy of Life
7. The Gospel is about a **Person**
We do not preach **Christianity**; we preach **Christ**.
We are not here to preach a lifestyle – we preach a **life**.
8. We are reminded about two things:
 - i. The **Humanity** of Christ.
 - ii. The **Deity** of Christ

He was every bit a human being, but He was also God.

9. What are some of the human characteristics of Jesus?

He was a **Fetus**.

He **learned** to **Walk, Talk, Eat** and **Think**.

He had a **Mother, Brothers, Sisters** and **Grandparents**.

He **Ate, Drank, Slept**, got **Weary**, endured **Pain**, and **Died**.

All these are human activities.

11. If the claim of Jesus to be God were false, then He was either

Bad – Knowing the claims were false, He was a liar.

Mad – Not knowing His claims were false He could be considered a mental case.

But if Jesus' claims are true, there can only be one conclusion – He is truly God.

And this makes Him the most important person in history.

Read again Romans 1:4

12. World Missions is not an option for the church to choose, but a mandate for the church to obey.

We cannot have the mind of Christ and not have concern for the world.

We cannot have the mind of Christ and still hold prejudices against people on the grounds of nationality, race, colour, class, caste, status or education.

Remember that Paul called himself a servant.

Obedience is the bottom line of our response to God.

Read Matthew 28:20

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 3 – The Dynamics of an Effective Church Romans 1:7 - 17

1. Romans 1:8 **Faith in God**
Romans 16:19 **Obedience to God**

That is a high commendation indeed!

2.
 - i. They were called to be **Saints**
 - ii. They were called to be **Spiritual**
 - iii. They were called to be **Servants**
3. Some of the historic churches have hijacked this term to apply to some special person, but the original Greek word 'hagios' means to be 'set apart', so according to the New Testament every true Christian is a 'saint'.

This does not mean that they are necessarily 'saintly', but they have acknowledged their sin; have accepted Jesus as their Saviour; He has cleansed them from sin: covered them with His own righteousness: and now calls them a 'saint'.

4.
 - i. We are **loved by God**
We have been brought into a love relationship with God.
Read and consider John 14:21 and 23
 - ii. We are **recipients of His grace**
Mercy is when we don't get what we deserve.
Grace is when we get what we don't deserve.
 - iii. We **enjoy His peace**
If you do not enjoy His peace it may be that –
 - a. You do not experience His love.
 - b. You do not see yourself 'set apart' for Him.
 - c. You do not draw on His grace.

5. The Church of Jesus Christ does not operate as a business or a human organization. Running the church as a business is going to make it sterile. The church is a Spiritual Entity and should operate by Spiritual means.

6.
 - i. **Upward** Read verses 8 – 9a

Prayer is either a waste of time or one of the most powerful means available to us. Paul believed in prayer.

- ii. **Inward** Read verse 11a
Paul's concern was not for fulfillment in his service, but for the benefit of those whom he was serving.
What makes a spiritual gift is that it is –
 - a. Derived from God
 - b. Energized by God
 - c. Exercised for God.

 - iii. **Outward** Read verses 14 - 15
We should always be outward looking to bring others to Christ.
- 7.
- i. **He Felt Obligated**
Do we feel a sense of obligation or do we see our service as just an option? There is a great lack of the sense of obligation in the church today, and this weakens its effectiveness. It is an obligation to find out from God what He wants us to do.

 - ii. **He was Eager**
Paul's sense of debt made him eager – not begrudging.
His eagerness derived from his sense of obligation.

 - iii. **He was Not Ashamed** - of the Gospel because he knew it is the power of God – not the power of the preacher.

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations

Part 4 – The Goal of the Gospel

Romans 1:16 - 17

1. The answers are No, No and No. These are all true ingredients, but not the main point.
2. In the gospel **a righteousness from God is revealed.**
3. Romans is not primarily about salvation from
Hell to Heaven
Guilt to Innocence
Death to Life

But rather from **Unrighteousness to Righteousness**

The Gospel is restoring the righteousness of God to human experience.

4. The 3 headings are:
 - i. The **Expression** of righteousness
 - ii. The **Suppression** of righteousness
 - iii. The **Restoration** of righteousness
5. Righteousness is the moral character of God.
I represent who God is, and how God behaves.
6. This righteousness – the moral character of God – was not designed to be something exclusive to God.
This righteousness was [is] intended to characterize human experience!
7. What are the **Incommunicable Attributes of God**?
 - i. His Omnipotence - power
 - ii. His Omnipresence - in all places
 - iii. His Omniscience - knowledge
 - iv. His Immutability - never changes
 - v. His Eternal Nature - has no beginning or end

None of these characteristics are true of human beings.

8. What are the **Communicable Attributes** of God?
 - i. His **Love**

- ii. His **Justice**
- iii. His **Mercy**
- iv. His **Kindness**
- v. His **Righteousness** – the moral character of God.

The Bible tells us that we are created in His image; the problem is, most of us do not resemble God.

9. We simply do not portray what God is like.

Check out the news on TV, the radio, in newspapers. Human beings do not portray what God is like. Even 'humanitarian' efforts are desecrated by human greed, corruption and politics.

Sadly this is to be found also among Christians where we can find self-interests and kingdom-building coming before the will and character of God being displayed.

The words of Romans 3:10 echo loudly; "There is no-one righteous, not even one."

10. **Getting human beings back to what they were created to be.**

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 5 – Now For The Bad News Romans 1:18 - 32

1. The good news is that the righteousness of God is revealed.
The bad news is that the wrath and judgment of God is revealed.
2. Love and Wrath are not **Opposites**, but **Parallels**.
The bad news is not that God is angry, but that He has every reason to be angry.
We will never know how good the good news is until we know how bad the bad news is. If there was no bad news there would be no salvation, for God would be indifferent to our plight.
3. This leads us to talk about two things.
 - i. The Provocation of the Wrath of God
 - ii. The Demonstration of the Wrath of God
4. The issue is not that people are **Ignorant** of God, but that they have **Rejected** His revelation, and that they are **Disobedient** to what they knew.
5. We may suppress this revelation; hide it, undermine its credibility, and try to explain it away – **but it is there!**

God has revealed Himself in Creation.

6. You may not see
 - great industry in every place
 - great places of learning in every place
 - great accumulation of wealth in every place.

But you WILL see **Evidence of Worship** –

Temples, Mosques, Shrines, Churches, Idols

7. People have –
Turned a Blind Eye to Creation and a **Deaf Ear to Conscience**.
The issue is not **Ignorance**. The issue is **DISOBEDIENCE!**
8. **The Demonstration of the Wrath of God** is found in two parts –

- i. The **Immediate** expression of God's wrath.
 - ii. The **Ultimate** expression of God's wrath
9. God lets us go to the logical end of our own choices.
He gives us over to our own choice; He lets us go our own way and we reap according to verse 27, "the due penalty for our perversion".

Sin always has a destructive kick in it – no matter how attractive it may seem.

The sins that God gave them over to are very clearly mentioned; but it even includes those who may not be actually committing those sins but who "approve of those who practice them".

God's wrath is expressed in His letting us go down the road of our choosing.
This is the immediate expression of God's wrath,

10. You will either stand before God covered with the righteousness of Christ, OR stand alone, dressed only in your own sin.

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 6 – The Judgment of God Romans 2:1 – 4 & 3:9 - 20

1. As we look at these scriptures in Romans we will be discussing that –
 - i. God's Judgment is Impartial
 - ii. God's Judgment is Internal
 - iii. God's Judgment is Inclusive
 - iv. God's Judgment is Irresistible

2.
 - i. They did not **Glorify** God.
 - ii. They did not **Give Thanks** to Him
 - ii. Their **Thinking** became **Foolish**.
 - iv. Their **Foolish Heart** were **Darkened**.
 - v. They claimed to be **Wise** but became **Fools**.
 - vi. They **Exchanged** the **Truth** of God for a **Lie**.
 - vii. They reaped the results of their **Perversion**.

They had become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They were senseless, faithless, heartless and ruthless.

So God gave them over

But be careful!

Little unites our enthusiasm more than cataloging and condemning other people's sin. Nothing feeds the fire of our own egos like an exposure of other people's failures.

3. **i. God's Judgment is Impartial**

God's Judgment is based on **Truth** and does not show **Favoritism**.

4. **ii. God's Judgment is Internal**

Many Jews then, and Christians now, learned how to have the correct language, but that had become a substitute for correct living

5. **External Ritual** becomes a substitute for our **Internal Reality**
Our **Position** becomes a substitute for our **Condition**.

6. Our **Outward Activity** should be an expression of our **Inward Attitude**,

7. **iii. God's Judgment is Inclusive**

There are some remarkable excuses that some Christians give to allow themselves to continue to sin.

Some people, believing in the eternal security of believers, are lulled into a sense that it doesn't matter how we live; that we are exempt from the judgment of God.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:12 – 15 There IS a Judgment for believers.

If God will not judge His own people, how can He judge the world?

8. **iv. God's Judgment is Irresistible**

God's Judgment is clear and final. Notice it says, "every mouth is silenced".

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations

Part 7– The Cross of Christ

Romans 3:21 - 31

1. There is no one righteous; not even one.
This is our problem, and there is absolutely nothing we can do about that.
2. A righteousness from God has been made known.
3. God presented Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood.
4. This question is explained in two ways.
 - i. Through the Cross, God is Satisfied.
 - ii. Through the Cross, people are Justified.

- 5, For whom did Christ die? Some would say - For the **World**
For **Sinners**
For **Me**

There is truth in this because we are benefactors of His death, but we are not the prime reason that made the cross necessary.

6. In the first instance, Jesus died for His **Father**. He died for **God**.

It is not us who demanded death as a punishment for sin. We would be happy if God were just to say 'I forgive you', but for God that is inadequate. Why?

7. Because what lies behind the cross is not, in the first instance, the love of God, but rather the wrath of God.

If you have a King James Version of the Bible available please read Romans 3:25

We do not like the idea of a God whose anger needs to be appeased; but it is important that we understand that in the first place Jesus did not die for you; He died to satisfy God – to turn away His wrath.

8. We have to understand God's **Justice** and His **Mercy**.

The difference between these two characteristics is:

- i. Justice - is giving people what they deserve.
- ii. Mercy - is NOT giving people what they deserve.

When Jesus died on the cross as your substitute the just demands of a Holy God were satisfied.

9. If you are studying in a group ask this question and see how many answer either way. Usually people say 'His mercy' but that is wrong. See 1 John 1:9
See also Romans 3:25. He did this to demonstrate His justice.

So, through the cross, God is satisfied.

10. It is called 'justified' because it is a just act of God.
The legal term means 'justice has been satisfied'.

If we appeal to 'mercy' we might feel that we could make that appeal one too many times; but **when we appeal to 'justice', God is morally and legally obligated to forgive because Christ has paid the debt.**

11. See Romans 5:6 While we were still **Powerless**, Christ died.
See Romans 5:8 While we were still **Sinners**, Christ died.
See Romans 5:10 While we were **Enemies** we were reconciled.

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 8 – Justification By Faith Romans 4:1 - 5 & 16 - 25

1. In our previous studies we have looked at our –

Our Natural Condition - separated from God
The Result - under the wrath of God
The Ultimate Consequence - facing the judgment of God.
2. There are no exceptions to the 'judgment of God'; and we discussed the following –
 - i. There is no one **Righteous** not even one.
 - ii. There is no one who **Seeks** God.
 - iii. There is no one who **Does Good** not even one.

Jesus Christ satisfied the justice of God as our substitute on the cross so that He might offer forgiveness and declare us to be justified.

3. Justification is credited to us as a **gift** which we receive by **faith**
4. 'Faith in God' is letting God do something for you.
This is illustrated in chapter 4 from the story of Abraham under there 3 headings.
 - i. The Object of Abraham's faith.
 - ii. The Obstacles to Abraham's faith.
 - iii. The Opportunities released by Abraham's faith.
5. Remember, faith is a disposition of trust which enables the object to work.
Our faith is never stronger than its object – e.g. thin ice/thick ice.
6. The object of Abraham's faith was God Himself.
7. Abraham's physical situation – his, and his wife Sarah's advanced age – were in contradiction to what God said He was going to do through them.

However, because God was the object of Abraham's faith the realities of Abraham's situation were reversed.

Is this the God in whom you trust? Is He the object of your faith?

8. Abraham fully understood the obstacles he faced.
Verse 19 says 'he faced the fact that his body was almost dead'.
9. We can either -
 - i. Look at our own situation, which is **Impossible**.
 - ii. Listen to God and look to Him, which is **Possible**.

Look again at the following verses –

4:18 Against all hope, in hope Abraham believed.

4:19 Without weakening

4:20 Did not waver

4:21 Was fully persuaded God had the ability.

Do you have the same kind of faith in the face of obstacles?

10. This initiative was from God; it was His idea in the first place.
Abraham was fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He had promised.

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 9 – Three Good Reasons to Rejoice Romans 5:1 - 11

1. We rejoice in . . .

v.2 the **Hope** of the **Glory** of God.

v.3in our **Sufferings**.

v.11 in **God** through **Jesus Christ**.

2. 1. We Rejoice in Our Position Romans 5:1 – 2a

This is the first and essential consequence of being justified. Read v.11

3. Simply put, it means we enjoy 2 kinds of peace in relation to God.

i. We have peace WITH God.

ii. We have the peace OF God. See Philippians 4:6 - 7

This means there is no longer any hostility between God and ourselves.

You need to stop asking for forgiveness for the same sin, and begin thanking Him that you are clean.

4. This is a 'future-tense' issue.

It is great that our past has been dealt with; but it is fantastic that our future is secure.

If you ever feel discouraged / aware of failure / conscious of sin, say to yourself two things.

i. I have peace with God. The past has been dealt with and all is now OK.

ii. I will rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

My future is totally secure.

5. No one wants to have sufferings, let alone rejoice in them.

If you go to any good bookstore you will find books on how to -

Handle your problems.

Avoid your problems.

Manage your problems.

Reduce your problems.

Get Rid of your problems.

But none on how to **Rejoice** in your problems.

However, this is the perspective that the Lord wants us to have as exemplified by the Apostle Paul.

6. If the goal for which we are predestined is to be conformed to the image of Christ, then we have to understand that **suffering is a tool for perfecting that.**

No one goes looking for suffering – we do all we can to avoid it – so why and how do we rejoice in it? Let's look at 3 reasons that Paul gives for this.

7. Suffering can be a creative force in life.
In the New Testament suffering has dignity.
Jesus learned obedience by the things He suffered.
We learn more from tears than we do from laughter.

In the Old Testament God's blessing came through prosperity.
In the New Testament God's blessing is through adversity.

Read Acts 14:22

8. Suffering produces **Perseverance, Character** and **Hope**
9. Suffering makes us more aware of God's love.
It can have two effects –
 - i. It can drive us **to** God - and soften us.
 - ii. It can drive us **from** God - and harden us.

In both cases it is not the suffering itself that causes this, but rather our disposition to the suffering.

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Romans – Rebuilding the Foundations Part 10 – Two Streams of History: Adam & Christ Romans 5:12 - 21

1. This is a dense and complex section – not easy to read – so here is a summary of what Paul is saying.

*By the **disobedience** of one man, **Adam**,
All people became **sinners**, which results in **death**.
But by the **obedience** of one man, **Christ**
All may become **righteous**, which results in **life**.*

In examining this we will look at two streams –

- I. The stream from Adam
 - ii. The stream from Christ
2. Every one of us have traits that go back to Adam

Adam was not just a singular name for one man, but it was also a plural name.

3. Adam ate of the tree, but did he die? Physically no, but spiritually yes.
Ephesians 4:18

4. The **Reign of Death**

5. We are dead by nature as a universal condition.
This is the condition into which we are born.
We retain **spiritual capacity**, but have lost **spiritual life**.

6. Our condition is what theologians call **The Fall**.

This is the explanation for the state of the world in which we find ourselves.
It is what is meant by 'total depravity'

**This does not mean that we are all as bad as we could be;
but none of us is as good as we should be.**

7. For Adam, **Sin Preceded Death** and was the **Cause of Death**.

For us, **Death Precedes Sin** and is the **Cause of Sin**

8. This state of death is what Paul calls the **Wages of Sin**.
No one will ever die FOR their sin, because we are already dead.
But a person may die IN their sin.

The wages of sin were paid in full in the garden of Eden, and as a result 'in Adam all die'. 1 Corinthians 15:22 We are **already** the recipients of the wages of sin.

9. Being in this state gets into our **Emotions**.
We find ourselves loving things we shouldn't love, and lusting after things we shouldn't lust after.

..... and it gets into our **Will**.

We find ourselves doing things we shouldn't do, but we do them anyway.

10. **Sociology** - how society operates.
Psychology - how individuals operate.
Theology - how God operates.

If we do not have a proper view of the fallenness of man we will not be able to deal with people as they really are.

Remember – every one of us is contaminated in Adam.

11. **The Stream from Christ**

This is both the **Complete Opposite** of the stream from Adam,
and it **Rectifies** the stream from Adam.

From Adam's **Disobedience** comes **Death** and **Sin**.
From Christ's **Obedience** comes **Life** and **Grace**.

Read verse 19b and then verse 18

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 11 – How To Be Holy Romans 6:1 - 14

1. **Legalism and License.**

2. **Legalism** is easy to adopt as it reduces Christianity to living by a set of rule.

A few examples being -

- i. You can only listen to certain approved music.
- ii. Do not wash your car on Sundays.
- iii. Men must always wear a jacket and tie to church.

Legalism is usually accompanied by frowning upon and looking down on people who do not agree with your rules.

Some rules are good and make sense in certain cultures.
There is usually very little love displayed by those who are legalistic.

3. License is the opposite of Legalism.

'License' says that God is so overwhelmingly kind, merciful and gracious, it doesn't really matter how I live any more because I am justified before Him. Because I am eternally saved I can sin when I feel the need to, and God will always be there to forgive and cleanse me.

Some people mistakenly use Romans 5:20 to justify 'license'.

4. Paul categorically rejects both Legalism and License.

So if both are wrong what should we be looking for?
Is there a middle ground with a little bit of Legalism and a little bit of License?

Paul's answer is based on 2 things –

- i. There is something we need to KNOW.
- ii. There is something we need to DO.

Doing what we have to do is based on knowing what we need to know.

5. Romans 6:3; and 6:16

Notice how both of these verse start with 'Don't you know'.

Romans 6:2 and 6:5, 6, 8 and 11 go on to list some things that we 'need to know'.

6. 'Death with Christ' is to make possible 'death to sin'.
And Paul says here that we need to know this!
7. This simply means that what happened to Christ, happened to us.
Verse 5 talks about being united with Christ; that is, to be made one with Him so that what is true of Christ becomes true of us.

In the reckoning of God, it was not just Jesus Christ who was crucified, but because He was my substitute I am regarded as being crucified in Him.

8. Death in scripture is a consequence of sin, and the power of sin is death.
However, as Jesus was our representative [substitute], when He died that means that we too in Christ have met sin's demands and it no longer has any power over us.
Sin's power has been exercised, it has paid its wages, it has produced death so it is now spent; its wages have been paid so **it no longer has any power over us.**

Read again Romans 6:6 – 7

9. As Christ was our substitute in death - He died for us.
So He is our substitute in life - He lives in us.

And the wonderful thing is that this life He lives in us cannot die.

10. These verses speak of - **Instruments of Wickedness, and
 Instruments of Righteousness**

Orchestras PLAY instruments; Physicians USE their instruments, but an instrument is of no use by itself, only in the hands of someone skilled.

So the determining factor is whose hands the instrument is in.

Shame and death are the only gifts that sin has to offer you!

- 12 There is a deliverance from sin through obedience to God.
It is a decisive change of allegiance that we call Repentance.

The surrender of our will to Christ is the key to everything else.

13. We cannot emphasize enough the place of the mind in all this.
Do not try to overcome sin by concentrating on overcoming sin.
Keep your mind focused on God and His righteousness.

Read and MEMORIZE Philippians 4:8

14. The result is holiness and life.
This is what satisfies us, fulfills us, and reaps our rewards.

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 13 – Dead to the Law Romans 7:1 - 13

1. One of the main themes in this passage is -
Breaking the Power of the Law.
2. We are released from the law so that we can live in the Spirit.
So let's talk about the law.
3. The 3 kinds of law are **Ceremonial, Civil and Moral.**

If we read the 10 Commandments we would probably agree that they are good – but are they realistic?
4. If we could live according to the 10 Commandments it should free us and bring 'life', but unfortunately our inability to keep those commandments brings death.
5. To begin to understand this vexing question we need to look at what criteria God determine the Law on.
6. The **Law** of God and the **Glory** of God are the **SAME THING.**
7. The 'Glory of God' is not a halo or bright light; it is His Character.
Adam was created in God's image – God's moral image; but through sin Adam lost the glory of God. He can no longer show what God is like, and likewise we have all 'fallen short of the glory of God'.
8. That answer to that is 'yes'. But God sent Jesus to rectified the fact that we, like Adam, have fallen short of God's glory.
9. The problem with the Law is that it is **External**
It can **Demand**, but it cannot **Accomplish.**

Additional reading: Galatians 3:10, 12, 13 and 23

The law can house-train us, [make us behave when others are watching] but it cannot change us.
10. These passages speak of 'death to the law'; its role has died.
11. We have died to the law through the body of Christ

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations

Part 14 – Two Spiritual Laws

Romans 7:15 - 25

1. These verses introduce the concept of the Two Spiritual Laws, which explain why we behave as we do.
2.
 - i. Is it a **Non-Christian** not yet **Born** of the **Spirit**?
 - ii. Is it a **Defeated, Backsliding Christian**?
 - iii. Is it a description of the **Normal Christian Experience**?
3. It sounds like a 'cop out' – an excuse 'It's not me, but sin!'
4. This is not talking about the sin of 'actions', but rather the **principle** of sin.
5. We can never truly understand ourselves until we know and accept the fact about ourselves as described in this verse.
6. Unless we believe what it says in verse 18 we will try to –
 - i. **Refine** ourselves.
 - ii. Hold on to the hope that one day we will manage to **Change**.
 - iii. WE will make **Promises** to God that 'from now on we will be good etc.'
7. Despite our **Greatest Intentions** we will **Fail!**

But don't be disappointed in this.

We will never be a bigger failure than the one God already knows we are!

You may become disillusioned with yourself – but God never will, because He does not suffer any illusions in the first place!

He **knows** the corruption of the human heart!

8. Be careful that you do not blame the devil for your sin. Every sin you commit, you do so because you want to. If the devil dies tonight, you would still sin. Sin comes from within!

This could all be very depressing. But the 'good news' is that Jesus Christ came to break the power of sin over us.
9. When we become a Christian God puts His own Spirit/nature within us; and He is the opposite of what we are by nature.

10. To better understand this we must ask 'who is born of God?'
Read 1John 5:11; 1John 1:2 and 1John 5:20

Jesus Christ is born into us.

Specifically, this is not **something**, it is **SOMEONE**.

From 1 John 3:5 we learn that 'in Him there is no sin'. Therefore, the life of the Son of God that inhabits you by the Holy Spirit does not sin, will not sin, cannot sin; **but you and I do.**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 15 – Living In The Spirit Romans 8:1 - 16

1. Here in Romans 8 the main theme is the Holy Spirit's work as the counterforce to the corrupt human nature – sometimes called 'the flesh'.
2.
 - i. The Spirit and the **Flesh** Romans 8:1 - 4
 - ii. The Spirit and the **Mind** Romans 8:5 - 11
 - ii. The Spirit and the **Will** Romans 8:12 - 16
3. Read again Romans 3 – 9 and 12 – 13 and replace the expressions
'sinful nature' - in verses 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13
'sinful man' - in verse 6
'sinful mind' - in verse 7
with the word 'flesh' [or 'the flesh']

So, 'the flesh' is in contrast to the Holy Spirit who lives in every Christian.

4.
 - i. The Law of **Sin** and **Death**
 - ii. The Law of the **Spirit** of **Life** in **Christ Jesus**

Our will battles with the law of sin within us until the day we die.

5. The **MORAL** law contained in the 10 Commandments God gave to Moses.
But now things start to become very exciting.
6. What was **Command** under the **Written Law** - dependent upon OUR ability.
becomes a **PROMISE** under the **Law** of the **Spirit** - dependent upon HIS ability.
It is impossible to live the way we should by the law of God, but there is nothing wrong with the law, only with our ability to obey it.
7. Isn't that amazing!? **The commands have become PROMISES!**
8.
 - i. Those who live according to the **Spirit**;
the law of the Spirit dominates; their minds are set on things of the Spirit
 - ii. Those who live according to the **Flesh**;
the law of sin dominates; their minds are set on things of the Flesh.
9. The **MIND** is **Crucial**.

Our minds must be brought into harmony with the Spirit.

10. Through the **Word** of God.

We cannot express too strongly how vitally important it is to Develop a Devotional Life.

11. Verse 12 speaks of our **obligation**.
This is more than just knowing something – it is doing something.

If we want to grow as Christians we had better deal with sin seriously and properly.

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Romans – Rebuilding The Foundations Part 16 – The Spirit of Hope Romans 8:16 - 25

1. Did you notice a recurring word in the last few verses?
In verses 24 – 25 you will find the word 'hope' 5 times.
2. **Faith, Hope & Love.**

Love is the greatest virtue – and we understand that.
We understand faith as a necessary virtue.
Although hope does not seem to have the same importance, it could be one of the most important ingredients for some of you.
3.
 - i. It could be **Wishful Thinking** - unrelated to reality, as in 'I hope to live to be 110 years of age.'
 - ii. It could be a **Confident Expectation** – related to reality, as in "I hope to have dinner at 7 pm tonight.'
4.
 - i. **Universal Suffering** verse 22 Famines, earthquakes, floods
 - ii. **Personal Suffering** verse 23 Cancer, heart disease, age itself.
5. Sufferings are part and parcel of the process of preparing us for glory.
In suffering there is hope!
6. Suffering and Glory are compared – they are related.
When we suffer God has not revoked any promise He has made to us.
7. We experience suffering now, knowing that eternal glory is to come.
8.
 - i. **Universal + General** [Everywhere and Everything] Verse 22
It says, Creation is Groaning.
 - ii. **Personal + Individual** [those who have the first fruits of the Spirit] Verse 23
It says, the Christian is Groaning

Please note that is GROANING, not moaning.
9.
 1. **Creation is Groaning** Verse 22
Creation is in bondage to decay.
Everything decays, everything disintegrates, everything dies.

10. One day creation is going to be LIBERATED.
Isaiah 65:17, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1

11. 2. **The Christian is Groaning** Verse 23 & Ephesians 1:13

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, wonderful as that is, liberating as that is, powerful as that is, **is only the first fruits** – there is more to come.
The Holy Spirit is the down payment.

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Romans – Steps To Freedom Part 17 – The Key to Security Romans 8:26 - 32

1. In these verses Paul asks 3 key questions.
2.
 1. Verse 31 If God is for us, who can be against us?
All kinds of things can be against us.
 2. Verse 33 Who will bring any charge against God's chosen ones?
There are serious charges, and condemnation is brought against God's people.
 3. Verse 35 Who can separate us from the love of Christ?
Many things will attempt to separate us from the love of Christ.
3. The popular understanding of Romans 8:28 is that 'all kinds of things happen in life, good or bad, but do not panic because God is behind these things; and it is all for our ultimate good which God is bringing us.'

Is this a correct understanding?

4. The fact is there are things that happen in our lives / world / experience that do NOT come from God. He is not their originator. Some of them are downright evil.

But no matter the **source** or the **substance**, whether **good or evil**, **God** works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose,

5. There are three sources of evil that we have to contend with.

- i. **Satanic sources of evil.** Read Romans 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:18;
2 Corinthians 12:7

There are limitations on Satan, but he can attack.

Satan did impede the ministry that Paul planned to have, even to the extent that he had a physical problem, but God worked in that situation to the point that Paul 'rejoiced' in his thorn.

However, please understand that Satan is not the opposite of God. God is Creator, Satan is created. One is not the opposite of the other.

- ii. **Human sources of evil.** Read Romans 1:18

The explanation for evil in the world is not all satanic – some of it is human. Some people may live in independence of God, and all kinds of trouble results.

But read Philippians 1:12.

Even though people gossiped about Paul, telling lies about him that resulted in Paul spending 5 years in prison in Rome, look at what happened.

The whole palace guard heard the gospel; so God was working for good in that bad situation.

iii. **Natural sources of evil** Read Romans 8:20 & 22

Natural things – such as health conditions can impede us.
Paul used to travel on boats that had a tendency to sink!

6. i. **Human criteria.** - for those who love Him.

This security is the outworking of a relationship of love with God.

Read 2 Timothy 1:12

The context of God working for good is for **those who love Him.**

ii. **Divine criteria** - for those who have been called according to His purpose.

What are His purposes?

What is the 'good' to which God works in all things? Read verse 29

Nothing takes God by surprise – he foreknows everything!

And in all the bad things He foreknows about our situation He has PREDESTINED an outcome – conformed to the likeness of His Son.

This is His **ultimate purpose** for us, and this is our **ultimate good.**

God's greatest ambition for us is to make us like His Son.

This is 'the good' to which He is working.

This is what some of the rough and tumble of life does for us.

Whether it comes from Satanic, human or natural sources it is an opportunity for God to mould us into the image of His Son.

7. So we are **Called, Justified** and **Glorified.**

8. i. We are **CALLED** - to what?

This goal is conformity to His Son.

We are forgiven so that we might be indwelt by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, so that He

- might **live in us the life of Jesus.**
- reproduce **the character of Jesus.**
- do through us **the work of Jesus.**

9. ii. We are **JUSTIFIED**

This has to do with our standing before God as summarized in Romans 8:1

10. iii. We are **GLORIFIED**
 - the future hope for which we still await.

11. To be **Justified** is a **Past Tense Event**.
 To be **Glorified** is a **Future Tense Event**.
 To be **Sanctified** is a **Present Tense PROCESS**.

To be Justified is to BEGIN the process of Sanctification.

To be Glorified is to COMPLETE the process of Sanctification.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Romans – Steps To Freedom

Part 18 – No Condemnation

Romans 8:31 - 34

1. 1. Verse 31 If God is for us, who can be against us?
2. Verse 33 Who will condemn us? [bring any charge against us]
3. Verse 35 Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ?

In this study we will focus on the second question.

2. Who is it that **Charges** and **Condemns** the people of God?
And why does this issue of **Condemnation** come up?

It is a fact that many Christians FEEL under condemnation.
This letter is not just about condemnation, but also about confidence.

3. i. Who is our **Accuser**?
- ii. Who is our **Defender**?
- iii. Who is our **Judge**?

4. It is very clear that it is the devil who is the 'accuser of the brothers'.
The word 'brothers' is used here in an inclusive way to mean all people.

When God speaks to us about our sin – He **Convicts**
When the devil speaks to us about our sin – He **Condemns**

5. **Condemnation** is from the devil and it sits like a wet blanket that we cannot get our
from under.

Conviction makes us aware of sin, but always shows the way out. The Holy Spirit
points us to the cross.

The Holy Spirit exposes our sin, but never to condemn us or humiliate us;
it is always to clean us up and liberate us.

6. In present day language it would be said the Jesus is our lawyer (our defender),
intervening on our behalf to plead our case.

7. In a court scene **God** is the **Judge**
You are in the **dock**
The **Devil** is the **Accuser**
Jesus Christ is the **Defense Lawyer**

8. Who has the final say in this matter? God!
On what basis; our behaviour? our performance? No!
Were that to be the case we would have no hope.
9. We are judged on the basis of the cross of Christ.
Our righteousness is not the issue any more – it is the righteousness of Christ

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Romans – Steps To Freedom Part 19 – More Than Conquerors Romans 8:35 - 39

1. Verse 31 If God is for us, who can be against us?
Verse 33 Who will condemn us?

and now verse 35 – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

2. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Romans 8:35

This question suggests 3 things –

- i. The **Facts** about His love.
- ii. The **Fears** about His love.
- iii. **Faith** in His Love.

3. i. **The Facts about His love.**

There is **Objective Knowledge** of God's love.
And there is **Subjective Knowledge** of God's love

4. This is a personal experience of the love of God.
His love for us is demonstrated by something that we can see.
5. This is much more than merely believing in God's love; it is an **experiential knowledge** of His love. Read Ephesians 3:17 – 19
To know His love in this way is to know the fullness of God.
6. ii. **Fears about His love.**
 1. **Trouble**
 2. **Hardship**
 3. **Persecution**
 4. **Famine**
 5. **Nakedness**
 6. **Danger**
 7. **The Sword**

Paul lists these things because when people go through these things they will often question the love of God and the presence of God.

When things go wrong in the world the question is asked: Where is God?

7. The philosophical argument says “If God is ‘all-powerful’ He can’t be good because His goodness would prevent the suffering in the world. If He is ‘good’ – He can’t be all-powerful because His power would prevent our suffering.”

So He may be ‘all-powerful’ or He may be ‘good’ but He cannot be both.
Is this right or wrong?

8. We discover here that Paul does not present some theory; he speaks from his own experience; and despite all of his sufferings never for one moment did it separate him from the love of Christ

9. When Paul speaks of our being ‘more than conquerors’ he is not saying that to conquer is to be above all things.

10. i. Not about living **Under** our circumstances - that is pessimistic
ii. Not about living **Above** our circumstances - that is idealistic
ii. But rather about living **IN** our circumstances - that is REALISTIC

The love of God does not exempt us from difficult things.

It is the love of God which equips us in these things. A very big difference!

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Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 20 – God's Strategy In Human History Romans 9:21 - 25, 10:1 and 11:1 - 6

1. In this section Paul deals with two controversial issues.
 - i. God's sovereignty in choosing people for particular purposes.
 - ii. The role and place of Israel in God's purposes.

2. Having affirmed at the end of Chapter 8 that 'nothing in all creation is able to separate us from the Love of God in Christ', Paul now says: if there is one thing I would allow to separate me from Christ, it would be **in exchange for the salvation of Israel**. A remarkable statement!

3. Paul is motivated by:
 - i. **Passion for God**
 - ii. **Compassion for People**

4.
 - i. There is the **Adoption as Sons**
 - ii. There is the **Divine Glory** - God's revelation of Himself
 - iii. The **Covenants** - agreements God made with Abraham and Moses
 - iv. The **Receiving of the Law** - Ten Commandments
 - v. The **Temple Worship** - built by Solomon
 - vi. The **Promises**
 - vii. The **Patriarchs** - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
 - viii. The **Human Ancestry of Christ** - who is God over all

Despite all this, God's choosing of Israel was a means to an end – not the end purpose.

The end purpose was not just to bless Israel – the end purpose was to bless the world by bringing Christ! Read Genesis 12:1 - 3

5. Jesus did not start something new when He came, died, and rose again. His role was in fulfillment of all that had been promised. Unfortunately God's chosen people saw themselves as the end purpose; thereby they missed the whole point.

6. Yes, this trap, this danger, remains possible; that we might come to regard our salvation as an end in itself.

We can make the mistake of –

- i. **Rejoicing in our salvation.**
- ii. **But never ask God; "how am I to make a difference in my world?"**

iii. Never ask: “How can God use me?”

7. You are the **Salt** of the earth.
You are the **Light** of the world.
8. It is through US that the process works – Saved, Call, Believe, Hear, Preach, Sent -
and the chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

**However, this is our task! That is why we have been left here!
To be involve in taking the Gospel to the world!**

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Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 21 – Present Your Bodies To God Romans 12:1 - 2

1. Paul begins this new section with the word 'therefore'. This is a key word, and it is like a hinge on a door.
2. What has gone before are 9 chapters of **Doctrine**

The 4 keys words being –

- i. **Reconciled** to God
- ii. **Justified** by faith
- iii. **Crucified** with Christ
- iv. **Sanctified** by the Holy Spirit

Then Chapters 12 – 16 contain 5 chapters of **Ethical** Instruction
The practical outworking of doctrine.

3. Some Christians who are primarily interested in doctrine tend to like to discuss, critique, check other people's doctrine, expose heresy, debate issues. It is not unimportant, but often they seem to stop there.

Other who are primarily interested in the practical aspects just want to be told how to live, so they usually don't read the Bible for themselves.

Both are inadequate if they stand alone!

4.
 - i. Two **Requests**
 - ii. Two **Reasons**
 - iii. Two **Results**

5. The imagery here of 'presenting our bodies' is taken from the sacrificial system of the Old Testament.

Presenting our bodies is about 'consecration'. It is setting ourselves apart for God.

God is interested in your body – not just your soul. Your soul expresses itself through your body.

6. A key act of faith is presenting our bodies to Him, so in doing this we please Him.

God does His work in the world through people, so He needs bodies made available to Him, and obedient to His instructions.

7. This is a call to non-conformity to the world.

Usually we find security in conformity – doing what other people do, dressing like other people dress – it make us feel safe and secure, like we belong.

The inclination towards being ‘worldly’ originates in the battlefield of the mind; and the only antidote to worldliness is **transforming the mind**.

8. **Two Reasons**

- i. It is your **Spiritual Act of Worship**

This is not about singing songs about Him on Sundays.
It is not about the disciplines that we follow.

This is about the daily surrender of our bodies to Him.

- ii. It is your **Reasonable Service**.

Just as it is logical for fish to swim in the sea, and for birds to fly in the air because they are made that way, so it is logical for us to present ourselves to God – because we are made that way.

For God to demand submission of your body is perfectly reasonable.
For Christ to assume Leadership of you life is also perfectly reasonable.

Presenting our bodies without reserve to God is both
Reasonable and True Worship.

9. Two Results – Personal Romans 12:2b

God has a plan and purpose for every life.
Knowing the will of God must be the most important thing to find out.

The Corporate result will be considered in our next lesson.

10. There is only one way: by presenting your body as a living sacrifice.

In others words: **it is in doing it that we discover it!**

Present your bodies to God as a living sacrifice, and then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is.

11. It is **Good** - that does not mean **Easy**
It is **Pleasing** - that does not mean **Comfortable**
It is **Perfect** - that does not mean it is what we would have planned

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 22 – Discovering the Will of God In the Church Romans 12:3 - 21

1. The Church is characterized by three things:
 - i. **Community** Romans 12:4 - 8
 - ii. **Humility** Romans 12:3
 - iii. **Simplicity** Romans 12:9 - 21

2. i. **The Church Characterized By Community** Romans 12:4 - 8
We are many individuals with many functions, yet we form one body

3. There is **Diversity of Gifts**, yet **Unity of Purpose**
Diversity - We are different Verse 6
Unity - We are dependent Verse 5

4. The analogy of the human body make it very easy for us to understand the relationship between the different parts of the Church; and verse 18 sums up the fact that God has arranged these body parts in the church just as He wants them to be.

For this reason it is important for each individual to find out what God wants us to do, and what God has equipped us to do.

Remember – God has arranged it that we are different in order to accommodate the different gifts needed for a healthy functioning Church.

5. What are the three areas of ministry of the Church?
 - i. **Public** ministry - teaching / prophesying / leadership
 - ii. **Practical** ministry - serving / giving
 - iii. **Personal** ministry - encouraging / showing mercy

6. Each member of the Body needs and is needed by each other.
Individual parts of a body do not, and cannot, function properly in isolation.
Each part needs the rest for its own functioning.

7. i. **Those who think they are insignificant and unimportant.**
They think God can work without them.

ii. **Those who think they are sufficient and all important.**
They think they can go it alone.

In the body we are **different from each other.**
In the body we are **dependant on each other.**

8. ii. **The Church Characterized by Humility** Romans 12:3

Verse 3b warns against **Inflated** thinking, and calls for **Sober** thinking.

In Romans 1:1. Paul displays **Humility** – *I am a servant of Jesus Christ*,
but also **Confidence** – *I am called to be an apostle.*

In 1 Corinthians 15:10 it says, “By the grace of God I am what I am.”

By the grace of God, what are you?

9. iii. **The Church Characterized by Simplicity** Romans 12:9 – 21

Being an effective part of the Body of Christ is not rocket science.

It is all about loving each other; ministry is never more or less than about this.

- Love must be sincere
- Hate what is evil
- Cling to what is good
- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love
- Be joyful in hope
- Patient in affliction
- Share with God’s people who are in need
- Practice hospitality
- Overcome evil with good

What a marvelous community this is!
Do you know what this community is called?
It is called – **The Church**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 23 – The Christian And Secular Government Romans 13:1 - 7

1.
 - i. Government is **Ordained** by God Romans 13:1 – 2
 - ii. Government is to be **Obeyed** by us Romans 13:1 – 2
 - iii. Government is to **Operate** for **Good** Romans 13:3 - 7

2. Romans 13:1a There is no authority except that **which God has established.**
Romans 13:1b The authorities that exist have been **established by God.**
Romans 13:2 He who rebels against authority is rebelling against **what God has instituted.**

Romans 13:4 He is **God's servant** to do you good.
Romans 13:6 Authorities are **God's servants.**

3. Genesis 1:26 tells us that human government is a Divine Ordinance instituted before the Fall.

Psalm 8:6 tells us that God gave humanity dominion over the earth.

4. It is the **Principle** of Government that God has ordained.

How the details of government work out is a human affair, but the **existence of government** is God ordained.

5. The 3 general forms of government are:
 - i. **Democracy** - the leader is determined by the electorate.
 - ii. **Monarchy** - the leader is determined by birth right.
 - iii. **Dictatorship** - the leader is usually self appointed.
We may have good government or bad government – that is a human choice; but the existence of government is God ordained.

6. There are some things that belong to Caesar, but there are other things that belong to God, such as our worship of Him and our freedom to obey Him. In democratic nations this is a cherished freedom.

7. The right to **Punish** verse 4b

This is a solemn responsibility of the state – like it or not.

The right to **Taxation** verse 6

Governments have the right to impose taxes, and we as citizens have the

responsibility to pay them – like it or not.

The right to **Respect** verse 7

Leadership deserves respect – like it or not. [see Final Thoughts]

8. ii. **Government is to be Obeyed by us.**

This is the general instruction to us, and in most situations we adhere to this without question.

9. Simply put, there ARE times when we may feel that we should obey God rather than man, so our position should be this:

Our submission to government is such that
if we cannot in good conscience obey them,
we accept the consequences of our disobedience
without complaint.

10. iii. **Government is to Operate for good.** Romans 13:3 – 7

i. God has given **Government** the responsibility to punish.

- a. It helps define and reinforce the values of the community.
- b. It affirms the responsibility of the individual.
- c. It satisfies the need for redress in the community.
- d. It encourages changed behaviour.

ii. God has given **Parents** the responsibility to punish.

Children who do not grow up in an environment where bad actions bring just punishment do not grow up with a healthy self esteem.

As parents we dislike disciplining / punishing our children, but there are times when we must – for their good.

Read Proverbs 5:11 – 12 and Hebrews 12:11

iii. God has given **Himself** the responsibility to punish.

This is why there is a Judgment Seat of Christ!

Read Romans 14:10b and 2 Corinthians 5:10

Punishment lies at the heart of Christian Faith - The Cross

Read Isaiah 53:5

It is the integrity of God - His demand that justice be done - that led to the cross; so how much more should we live by those principles.

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Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 24 – The Law Is About Love Romans 13:8 - 14

1. From verse 8 we learn that loving one another is not a suggestion of something good; it is, in fact, **a debt we owe each other**.
2. It is about **Restoring** the **Righteousness** of God to human experience.

Paul has explained this **Theologically** in chapter 1 – 11,
and from Chapter 12 he explains it **Ethically**

True **Belief** always leads to the right **Behaviour**.

Doctrine always leads to **Duty**.

Resources in Christ always leads to **Responsibility** in the world.

**The goal of the gospel is not that we believe the right things,
but that we are equipped to behave in the right way.**

3. God does not relate to us **Collectively** as a block called **Humanity**.
He created YOU individually. Psalm 139:15 - 16
You are not just a part of the mass of humanity; you are **created, woven together, individually made**.
So, the big question is; How do we live in the world and relate to it?
4. Our debt is a debt of love so we are to:
Verse 8 Love one another.
Verse 9 Love your neighbour as yourself.
Verse 10 Love does no harm to its neighbour.
Verse 10 Love is the fulfillment of the law.
5. LOVE – not criticism – should be our response to sin and failure!
6. It is one thing to criticize **sexual promiscuity**, but it is another thing to help the single mother – **that is our task!**

It is one thing to criticize **AIDS** as a sexually transmitted disease, but it is another thing to help the victims of that virus – **that is our task!**

It is one thing to criticize the **moral degeneration** of our culture, but it is another thing to take seriously our role as **Salt and Light**.

You don't have to be smart to see what is wrong in the world,
but it is the easiest thing to wave a finger at other people's sins.

To do this is easy, cheap and godless.

Unfortunately many Christians seem good at it!

7. Yes of course sin matters to God, but not because 'standards are slipping', but because **people are getting hurt**.

It matters to God so much that **He gave His Son to set us free!**

Does He get angry at Sin? Does He condemn sin?

Yes – but His anger and condemnation are reserved for those self-righteous people who were smug and satisfied with themselves. But to those who are repentant He shows no condemnation – only love.

8. It is to not rub their noses in their own dirt – not to expose them.

It is to LOVE them and RESCUE them!

Paul says this is not a debt that we will ever completely pay off – it is a lifelong obligation, "Let no debt remain outstanding except for the continuing debt to love one another".

Read and carefully consider what Jesus said in Matthew 22:37 - 40

EVERYTHING is about these 2 issues: Love God and love your neighbour.

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Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 25 – Legalism and Liberty Romans 14:1 - 23

1. Divisions can usually come under 3 categories
 - i. **Doctrinal** issues - connected with interpretation of the scriptures
 - ii. **Ethical** issues - Moral issues upon which we need to take a stand.
 - iii. **Personal Preferences** - these are often culturally driven but have become 'Christianized' and so, confused with Christian truth.

2. From this chapter we see these secondary issues as not being between **Right** and **Wrong**; but being between the **Weak** and the **Strong**.
 - The weak have strong convictions about disputable [secondary] matters.
 - The strong are more liberal and tolerant.

3.
 - i. **Recognizing** the problem
 - ii. **Responding** to the problem
 - iii. **Rectifying** the problem

4. Verse 2 Food. What can and cannot be eaten.
In Leviticus 11 there is a list of what food can or cannot be eaten.
Make a list of the 'can eat' and the 'cannot eat'.

For example: you CANNOT eat camels, rabbits or pigs, but you CAN eat chicken.
You CANNOT eat vultures or bats, but you CAN eat locusts or grasshoppers.

5. Are vegetarians weak in faith?
Can those whose faith is strong eat EVERYTHING not just anything?

This was one contemporary issue of that day that the church in Corinth and Rome were concerned about.

6. Jewish Calendar - Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles
Christian Calendar - Christmas, Easter

Certainly in Judaism the rules of Sabbath observance were chronically restrictive and missed the purpose. Jesus Himself was frequently in trouble for breaking these rules.

7. While many of us are not struggling with the **same issue**, we are struggling with the **same principle**; that being **allowing minor issues to become major issues**, especially in what we demand of others.

The message here is that in these disputable matters – not addressed by scripture – it is no one else's business. It's between you and God.
And Jesus declared ALL foods clean.

8. i. Legalism is living by rules in an attempt to please God.
ii. The problem with legalism is not just that it binds up the person themselves, but it always makes us judgmental – the sure sign of legalism.

Legalism is a sign of immaturity – and sadly, some Christians remain immature all their lives.

Read Galatians 5:1 which tells us that legalism is a burden and a form of slavery.

9. i. We are to be **careful**

Verse 4 Some things are none of our business.

Verse 6 We must trust that what other people do, they do in good conscience before God.

Verse 12 Just as others will one day stand before God, we need to prepare ourselves for the same judgment day.
So, we must quit judging each other.

10. ii. We are to be **Conscientious** Read verse 5 and 1Timothy 1:19

Verse 5 Make it a rule to never violate your own conscience.

1 Timothy 1:19

Always ask yourself what the Bible has to say about any issue. Where it is ambiguous by all means be convinced in your own mind, but respect the conviction of others who may disagree with you. If necessary – agree to disagree!

11. iii. We are to be **Caring** Romans 14:14 - 15

Our behaviour is always to be characterized by love for others. There is nothing wrong with any food in itself, but if you feel

free to eat food [or drink] when others feel they shouldn't, do not parade your freedom before them, for if you bring distress to others by your actions, you are not acting in love.

12. iv. We are to be **Confident** Read Romans 14:22 - 23

People will put pressure on you to do, or not do, certain things. It is important therefore that you act and behave before God in dependency on Him.

The most important thing is not what we do, but rather the spirit in which we do it. So we respect others who do [or do not do] certain things, and we understand that to persuade them to go against **their** conscience is wrong.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 26 – Developing a Ministry Mentality Romans 15:1 - 16

1. As we come to the end of Romans, Paul focuses on getting out of ourselves and reaching to others. So today we will look at “Developing a Ministry Mentality”. Ministering to one another must become a mental attitude of life.
2. It is only when we allow the spirit of God to flow through us out to others [as our Christian service] that we will find true fulfillment.
3. Specialist ministries are good and have their important place, but Paul talks about **everyday ministry** – at **home**, at **work**, in the **community**, in **church** – and he specifies **Four Areas of Ministry in Healthy Christian Growth**.
4. Pleasing ourselves is an instinct that we all have, but ironically pleasing ourselves does not please us because we are designed to find satisfaction in building up other people.

So who do we seek to please? Romans 15:3 and John 5:30

Here is the pattern:

- **Pleasing ourselves** is not a priority any more.
- At all times we seek to **please God**.
- We **please God** by **building up our neighbour**.

5. If Pleasing God is a **Horizontal** dimension, Reaching out
then Praising God has a **Vertical** dimension. Reaching up.

So we ‘reach up’ by ‘reaching out’

6. Verse 5 talks of a spirit of unity.
Verse 6 talks of with one heart and one mouth.
Verse 7 talks of you accept one another

The praise is not best expressed in isolation, but in community with other believers.

7. The common denominator is **Jesus Christ**
Our presence together – accepting one another – is itself bringing Praise to God!
8. Romans 15:14 Paul talks of the Christians in Rome being competent to instruct one another. That is every Christian he is talking about.
Romans 15:15–16 Talks about being a minister of Jesus Christ to the gentiles.
Romans 15:17 Talks about his service to God.

Romans 15:19 Says he has fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.
Romans 15:20 Says it has always been his ambition to take the gospel to places that have never heard it before.
Romans 15:23–29 Talks of his future plans to :
i. Finish his ministry in Greece.
ii. Preach the gospel in Jerusalem.
iii. Preach the gospel in Rome.
iv. Preach the gospel in Spain

All this at a time when the fastest means of travel was a horse, when most boats seemed to sink frequently, and when Paul himself was past his peak of middle age.

9. **WRONG!**

Read again verse 14. **We are ALL - Good enough
Knowledgeable enough
Competent enough**

10. In verses 30 & 31 Paul is appealing to others to join him in the struggle.
How? “By praying to God for me

Sometimes we treat prayer as if it were the last resort, whereas prayer is the **MOST IMPORTANT thing we can do.**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Romans – Freedom In Christ Part 27 – All Together Now Romans 16:1 - 27

1. It is vital that we understand the message of Romans as it is the most systematic explanation of the gospel in the entire New Testament.

- Reconciliation to God
- Justification by faith
- Sanctification by the Holy Spirit

It is highly recommended that you read this Book of Romans regularly.

2. This last chapter is not one that you will hear much preaching on, as it is a very personal chapter in which Paul greets a list of people, and then gives a few closing comments.

However, we must remember that *“All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, as is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”*, so we can conclude that this last chapter is valuable to us also.

We will look at this last chapter under 3 headings.

- i. The People Who Constitute the Church
- ii. The Problems which Disrupt the Church
- iii. The Priorities which Guide the Church

3. That is a trick question really, because most of the people mentioned we know nothing about, and half of them we can't even pronounce their names. However, on closer examination it gives us some interesting insights into the church in Rome.

4. There are 9 people mentioned here by name in whose homes the church met.

There was **one church** in Rome, but it broke down into **small groups**. This was according to the practice described in Acts 2:46 – 47

The fact is, if turning up on a Sunday morning is the sum total of your practical involvement with other Christians, you are not going to progress very much.

5. There are 10 women mentioned by Paul, but it is interesting that although Paul lists twice as many men as women, he **commends** twice as many women as men, so these women are really worth noting.

Let's take a brief look at these 10 women.

6. **Phoebe** Verse 1

Phoebe is described as a 'deacon', and we know that she was a 'servant of the church in Cenchrea, a small town outside Corinth in Southern Greece. We know she was a great help to Paul and was entrusted to carry Paul's message to the church in Rome.

She almost certainly had to deal with male prejudice towards women holding any important position or function in the church.

7. **Priscilla** Verse 3

We know that Priscilla was an able teacher of the scriptures, who, along with her husband Aquilla, was described as fellow workers with Paul who had risked their lives for him.

It is interesting that Priscilla is always mentioned before her husband. Perhaps she held some rank in society.

8. **Mary** Verse 6

We really don't know anything about Mary other than that she worked very hard for the church in Rome. An 'unsung hero'.

9. **Junais** Verse 7

Junais and Andronicus were relative of Paul who were in prison with him, and had become Christians before Paul. They are described as being '**outstanding among the apostles**'.

10. **Tryphena and Tryphosa** Verse 12

They are described as being hard-working sisters.

It is interesting that their names mean 'Delicate and Dainty'.

We don't know if they were, but we do know that they worked very hard in the Lord.

11. **Persis** Verse 12

Another described as *another woman who worked hard in the Lord*.

12. **Rufus' mother** Verse 13

Whoever she was, she had been like a mother to Paul.

13. **Julia**, Nereus and his **sister** Verse 15

We know nothing about these people other than that Paul mentions them.

14. Some areas of the church today that would not be the same were it not for women:

- A lot of **Prayer Meetings** would close if not for women.
- A lot of **Missionary Work** would collapse if not for women.
- A lot of **Sunday School** work would fold if not for women.
- A lot of **Encouragement** would be missing if not for women.

Here in Rome Paul pays tribute to women who fulfilled roles of:
Deacon, Teacher, Apostle and several who **worked hard**.

15. Even as it is today, so every church in the New Testament was vulnerable to this.

The New Testament records difficulties in Jerusalem, Antioch, Galatia, Ephesus, Corinth and Colossae.

In the book of Revelation, 5 of the 7 churches in Asia Minor were all warned about 'divisions'. So I guess the church of today is subject to the same pitfalls.

The devil's tactic is to 'divide and conquer'. He doesn't mind if we meet to worship/teach/fellowship/give as long as he can neutralize our usefulness by causing division.

16. There is nothing that will cause disruption more than to be insistent on a human agenda; to engage in service for our own ends; to have human and usually personal objectives.

Your own agenda must never predominate over the agenda of Jesus Christ!

**If you come to Christian service with an agenda other than God's,
sooner or later you will cause division.**

17. i. **Our First Priority is Christ** *It is all about Christ!*
ii. **Our Second Priority is Scripture** *Our knowledge of Christ comes from Scripture, and we must not depart from its authority!*
iii. **Our Third Priority is Evangelism** *So that all nations might believe and obey Him!*