

# WEEK 11 | ROMANS 6:1-14

## ROMANS | THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S POWER

### OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful to you as you consider this text.

- John 15 – Jesus commands his disciples to abide in him, and he promises to abide in them.
- Galatians 2:19-21 – Christ in me: A tremendous reality for every believer.

### THEMES.

The overarching theme of Romans is the gospel—salvation through Jesus Christ. That is important to remember and keep in front of your group, because the letter is a theological masterpiece. But as with any work of art, each brush stroke's true beauty is best seen when the piece as a whole is realized. To that end, we will deal with many sub-themes, but remember that each one weaves together to give the “fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament.”<sup>1</sup>

1. Due to Adam's sin, all men and women are born with an inherited nature, actively oppose God, and need salvation. (Rom. 6:1-14; Ps. 51:5; John 3:1-15; Rom. 5:12-14; Eph. 2:1-3)
2. Righteousness is not attained by human action or works of the law; justification is God's free gift of grace received by faith in Jesus. (Rom. 5:1-2; Gen. 15:1-6; Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 5:17-19; Eph. 2:4-9; Phil 3:8-11; Titus 3:4-7)
3. All who trust in Jesus Christ are united to him in his death and resurrection; therefore, we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 6:5-11; John 15:1-17; Gal. 2:20; 1 Peter 2:24)

### QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group.
2. To whom or what have you been “united” in your life? What benefits are you afforded as a result? How does that union affect your daily life?

*Note:* Marriage union, labor union, etc.

3. Read Romans 5:20-6:4.
  - Evidently, according to Rom. 6:1, some heard Paul's message of grace and interpreted it as an excuse for license to sin. In your opinion, why might that be a natural inference to make? Do you use grace as an excuse to sin?
  - In Rom. 6:2-4, Paul strongly objected to that inference and points to Christian baptism as reason why sin shouldn't be pursued. Why does the baptism serve as proof that Christians should not go on sinning?

*Hint:* One commentator comments on baptism's significance, saying that in the first century, “to “baptize” evoked associations of violence. It meant “immerse” rather than “dip”. It was used, for example, of people being drowned, or of ships being sunk... When it is applied to Christian initiation we ought not to think in terms of gentleness and inspiration; it means death, death to a whole way of life.”<sup>2</sup> Go on sinning? No! Our old, sinful self died with Christ.

<sup>1</sup> John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's good news for the world*. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 19.

<sup>2</sup> Leon Morris, *The Epistle to the Romans*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 246-247.

4. Read Romans 6:5-11. Paul says that believers have been “united with [Christ]” in his death and resurrection. In this way, what is true of Jesus is true of us. All that his death and resurrection accomplished can be claimed and applied to our lives and reality. As you look over those verses, what are some of the things he accomplished?

*Hint:* By his death, we are: no longer enslaved to sin (v. 6), set free from sin (v. 7). Because of his resurrection, we will never die again (v. 9a), set free from the dominion of death (v. 9b). In a sentence, we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

5. How does the truth that we are positionally dead to sin and united to Christ in His resurrection help us in our daily struggle with our sin nature?
6. Read Romans 6:12-14. According to this passage, the response to license is not legalism. Instead, we are told to “present” ourselves and our members (i.e. mental/spiritual faculties, limbs, organs, etc.) to God “as instruments or righteousness.” Are you paralyzed by compulsive legalistic spirituality? Do you have any habits or ways of presenting yourself to God and allowing him to settle and lead you? If so, share with the group.

## PRAY TO CLOSE.

Here are a few prayer points to posture your heart as you close.

- Ask for requests from the group.
  - May want to break up and share in gender-specific groups.
- Ask God to locate your heart and remind you of the power and significance of your union with Christ.
- Present yourselves to God and ask him to lead you to righteousness.