

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE NOTES
WOMEN IN THE WORD
Fellowship Bible Church

The Grace of God Revealed

Lesson 10

God's Grace Revealed in Romans

April 22, 2024

Our Identity Matters

Example of Adam and Eve

Their spiritual identity changed when they sinned.

Before the Fall	After the Fall
Living in the Garden	Living outside of the Garden
Naked and NOT ashamed	Naked and ashamed
Didn't try to clothe themselves	Tried to clothe themselves
Not afraid of God	Afraid of God
Fellowshipped/walked with God	Hid from God
Blameless	Blame shifting

It was the change of their spiritual identity that changed their actions and how they saw God.

Example of Israel

Their spiritual identity changed when God freed them from slavery in Egypt.

Slaves in Egypt	Free in the Promised Land
Slaves	Free
Ruled by the Egyptians	Ruled themselves
Forced to labor for others	Labored for themselves
Not free to worship God	Free to worship God
Possessed (by others)	Possessors

They had a hard time at first accepting that change. And this is how we are as well. Seeing ourselves as God sees us takes some getting used to.

They had been slaves for 400 years. It had become their identity. Slaves gave birth to slaves. They even at times wished to go back to their slavery.

- God had to dramatically and miraculously take them through an undeniable process that enabled them to see and believe that they were no longer slaves of the Egyptians.
- God led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea and then closed up the sea on their enemies. God gave them a physical picture of cutting off their old life of slavery.

What about us?

God has done the same thing with us. Because of the blood of Christ, the divine power of God has miraculously crucified/cut off our old fallen spiritual identity and recreated us with a new spiritual identity that makes us free to now live as righteous, holy and acceptable children of God because that is now who we are!!!

Paul reminds us in Romans about where we have been, what we have been saved from, our new identity and finally Godly action or Godly living. It's not until chapter 12 that Paul begins instruction for Christian living.

Let us not jump to chapter 12 without first being established in our identity in Christ. When we do that we put our works - deeds - obedience - Christian disciplines out of place.

We are implored to live a life worthy of our calling and be an example of God's character in the world, but doing that in our own strength will only result in failure or prideful arrogance (like the Pharisees)

Romans outline

Romans 1:15-17 - Key passage - The Gospel is the "power of God unto salvation." And "The one who by faith is righteous, shall live"

Our problem was one of identity and God changed our identity when we became His child by faith in the Gospel.

Romans 1:18-32 - People are unrighteous sinners. Depraved and corrupt.

Romans 2:1-3:9 - Religious people are also unrighteous. Hypocrites.

Romans 3:9-20 - No one on earth is righteous on their own. Until our own sin is bitter to us, grace will never be sweet.

Romans 3:21-31 - Righteousness is received through faith.

Romans 4 - example of Abraham's faith.

Romans 5 - v1 - Peace with God. (Position)

Not to be confused with the Peace of God (condition) which is a result of the peace with God. The peace of God is a process and comes after the position (peace with God)

V2 - Standing in Grace - Rejoice in a glorious hope!

V 3-5 What are the daily effects of being at peace with God? Standing in grace with a glorious eternal hope.

V6-11 - all received undeservingly by grace through Christ.

V 12-21 - Paul establishes the fact that the basis for both our sinfulness in Adam and our salvation in Christ are at the spiritual identity level and not at the surface outward level.

Romans 6 - v1-11 - The power of God has crucified, eradicated, removed our old man or our old fallen spiritual identity.

V12-14 first time in Romans that we have some instruction for Christian living. It comes after laying the foundation of our new identity in Christ.

V 15-23 - Slaves to righteousness - Are we to sin since we are not under the law any more? NO!! Just the opposite, now that we have been set free from the bondage of sin (our identity has changed) it makes no sense to continue living in sin and corruption.

First comes faith in What Christ did for you on the cross, then comes faith in what God has changed about you. (Your identity) then comes living that out because you believe that God has changed you.

Sometimes we give the gospel and people believe it and are saved, but then we give them a list of good things to do and bad things that displease God to follow. This leads to self-focus, and either self-righteousness or failure and self-condemnation.

Romans 7 lays out the struggle we have with the flesh - the reality of living on this earth!

Romans 8 goes back to our identity in Christ. Reminds us that we are not condemned (v1) and nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (v39) We are more than conquerors through Him (v37). GRACE!!

The rest of Romans implores us to live a life honoring and glorifying to God, and has verses scattered throughout that remind us of our position in Christ. We cannot “walk worthy of our calling” in our own strength. It is only possible by a new life in Christ, a changed DNA.

Faith in Christ’s death on the cross saves you eternally. Faith in your new identity (because of Christ’s death and resurrection) saves you from daily struggle with sin. The first is instant, the second is a process through out our lifetime that we have to keep reminding ourselves of. When we see sin in our lives, we can confess it and can immediately thank Him for His grace and the positional righteousness of Christ.

I am a child of the King. I have the righteousness of Christ. I am made new. I am no longer a slave to sin. As we walk with God in Newness of Life we WILL be transformed into the image of His Son for HIS glory. - That is GRACE.

Metta Narrative - God planned it by grace, He prepared for it in grace, He fulfilled it by grace, and now, by grace, we experience the results of a new life in Christ because of His work on the cross.