

Edify Small Group Handout

September 13, 2026

Sermon: “A Matter of the Heart” — Romans 2:25–29 | Pastor John Gomez

SERMON REFLECTION

Someone reads Romans 2:25–29 first. Then someone gives a brief (5 minutes tops) recap/summary of Sunday’s sermon.

Main Point: External, God-given ordinances, though good and holy, cannot save you.

Grand Points of the Text:

1. External ordinances cannot cover one’s sin (vv. 25–27)
2. External ordinances are not what ultimately defines the people of God (vv. 28–29)

What convicted or impacted you personally about Sunday’s sermon?

LEARN: What does this section of Scripture teach us?

Intro: What are some outward signs or practices that people might be tempted to rely upon as evidence that they are right with God?

1. External ordinances cannot cover one’s sin (vv. 25–27)

- Why was circumcision so significant to the Jewish people? What did it signify?
- Why does Paul say that circumcision is only valuable if a person obeys the law? What point is he making about outward covenant signs and obedience?
- John used the illustration of sweeping dirt under a rug. What are some ways we might try to “sweep our sin under the rug” rather than recognizing that it must actually be dealt with?
- How might baptism become a source of false assurance? How can we rightly value baptism?
- If baptism cannot cover our sin, what can? What does this teach us about where our assurance of salvation should ultimately rest?

2. External ordinances are not what ultimately defines the people of God (vv. 28–29)

- According to verses 28–29, what is the difference between an outward sign and the inward reality it represents?
- What does Paul mean by “circumcision of the heart”? What does this teach us about regeneration and the work of the Holy Spirit?
- Why is a changed heart something that only God can accomplish?

- Jeremiah promised a New Covenant in which God would put His law within His people and forgive their sins. How does Christ fulfill that promise? How does baptism point toward that reality?
- What are some outward things Christians today might be tempted to use as evidence of spiritual health while neglecting the condition of their hearts?
- How can we examine our hearts without turning our attention away from Christ and becoming consumed with examining ourselves?

Application

1. The importance of the doctrine of regeneration. John 3, Rom 8
2. The importance of the doctrine of what/who the true Israel is. Rom 4:16
3. Paul is talking about something that only God can do and something He promised to do. Phil 1:6

HOMEWORK / CONTEMPLATION / MEDITATION

Read Jeremiah 31:31–34 and John 3:1–8 this week.

Consider:

Am I resting in something I have done for God, or in what Christ has done for me?

CLOSING

Pray for one another.