

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 14 “Building Spiritual Momentum”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on the book of Romans today. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the church in Rome to bring reformation to this church in 57 A.D. We are studying verse by verse through the book with our focus being on “Reformation.”

A. The main problem Paul wanted to reform with the church in Rome was the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles. They were in strife about beliefs and practices associated with their faith and trying to impose their will on each other.

1. Paul did not want to revive this church. He wanted to reform it.
2. This is what God wants to do with church in America. If He sent revival that didn't lead to change in belief and practice it would just accelerate our idolatry.

B. Over the last couple of weeks we've been going through **Romans 5-6** and talking about identity in Christ. As believers we are now in Christ (the second Adam) and no longer in the first Adam. We now have a new nature as righteous and not as a sinner.

1. Our actions will follow how we see ourselves. If we believe the old sin nature is dead, we won't yield to it. If we believe it's alive, we will live double minded and struggle with sin.
2. This morning we are going to continue on the theme of living holy as we talk about “Building Spiritual Momentum.” **The premise is when we intentionally live holy lives, we will build spiritual momentum that makes it easier to live holy lives.**

II. Spiritual Momentum

A. **Romans 6:12-14** Paul makes it clear living in sin is a choice. We are supposed to choose to not let sin reign in our mortal body. We do this by knowing the old man is dead and the new man is alive in Christ Jesus. ex: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hide.

B. **Romans 6:15-16** Paul gives additional reasons why we should live holy. Even though we are under grace if we yield to sin, we make ourselves a slave of the devil.

1. This doesn't mean we aren't born again. When we die, the spiritual part of us will go to heaven.
2. This means in terms of our lifestyle is we will become the slave (controlled) by the devil. This hinders momentum. ex: King David. **2 Samuel 13:1.**
3. No Christian man wakes up and says I'm going to have an affair today. So how do they have an affair? One small sin at a time.
 - a. Start watching a little porn and feeding their flesh with it.

- b. Go to lunch with an attractive co-worker as “friends” and begin to flirt a little bit - give up more control.
 - c. One thing leads to another until they are caught in temptation and it overcomes them. **They built negative spiritual momentum.**
- 4. One major point to remember is when we yield to sin and bad consequences hit, it’s not God’s fault. It’s the fruit of sowing and reaping. Ex: Andrew Wommack story about Joshua
- 5. God doesn’t correct through judgment. He corrects us through the word - **Hebrews 12:5-7**
 - a. chastise - **paideía** ; tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction:—chastening, chastisement, **instruction, nurture.**
 - b. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** and **Ephesians 6:4 KJV.**

C. Romans 6:17-23 Slaves or Righteousness not Slaves of Sin

- 1. **Verse 17** the doctrine we believe is the simplicity of the gospel! **2 Corinthians 11:3-4.** The simplicity of the gospel is Jesus took care of everything at the cross and you now have a new nature. It really is that simple. Anything more complex is demonic in nature!
 - a. Eve was a perfect woman living in perfection, yet Satan got her focusing on what she didn’t have (couldn’t eat from tree of knowledge of good and evil).
 - b. Satan got her to try to be like God when she already was. We need to keep our focus on what we do have so we walk in our authority!
- 2. **Verses 18-19** Paul is now saying we ought to serve righteousness in terms of our actions! We are slaves to it. **Obedience creates momentum that makes further obedience easier.** ex: Me in 2002 when God told me to give up certain friends, then told me to give up certain music and TV shows - It built momentum in my life and I got hungrier for Jesus.
- 3. **Verses 20-22** The same way when we were sinners we were free of righteousness, as righteous people we ought to be free of sin in how we do life.
- 4. **Verse 23** The wages of sin is death. Sin pays death. This is why we don’t want to live in habitual ongoing sin.

III. Conclusion - Many have said the grace of God covers our sin. This isn’t accurate. **1 Peter 4:8** says *the love of God covers a multitude of sin.* God’s grace empowers us to live holy, but we have to yield ourselves to it. This is why **Romans 6:15** says we are under grace.

A. Call up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer