

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 18 “The Revealing of the Sons of God”

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. Paul did not want to revive this church. He wanted to reform it, which means bring change.

B. Throughout this study, grace has been a major theme. Last week we saw how the law brought bondage through a spirit of fear. This made people orphans. When Jesus went to the cross He made it possible for His children to be filled with His spirit. This is the spirit of adoption or as the KJV says “the adoption of sons.”

1. In Roman culture, a child was given over to Roman tutors and schoolmasters until they reached maturity. When they reached maturity they went through a ceremony of adoption of sons and they were recognized as mature sons in the family. This meant they had full use of the family name and assets.
2. This is a picture of what happened at salvation. Jesus told us to pray in His name and *Galatians 5:21* says we inherit the kingdom of God (family assets).

C. Today we are going to talk about the revealing of Son(s) of God.

1. This isn't talking about Jesus. It is talking about mature believers.
2. We will also study some really difficult verses about creation travailing in birth pangs and I'm going to give you multiple possible interpretations of these passages as well as what I think is the best interpretation.
3. Main Idea - Getting a Revelation the you are a Son of God gives you the capacity to bring great change to the world around you. The word Son is **huios**, which means a mature son. This is one who has a right to the family name and inheritance.

II. The Revealing of the Sons of God

A. **Romans 8:16-26**

1. **Verses 16-18** The glory of God shall be revealed in us not to us. **John 17:20-22** Jesus places his glory (royalty within us) when we get born again. ex: King Charles in his glory - when he's not in street clothes and puts the crown and robes on, everyone knows he king and he has authority.

2. **Verses 19** The Greek word for creation is *ktisis*. It is the same word used in **2 Corinthians 5:17** saying believers are a new creation. It is also used in **Mark 16:15**. When Jesus tells us to preach the gospel to every *ktisis*, he's not talking about animals or the physical planet.

a. While the word *ktisis* primarily refers to people, there are times it can refer to physical creation. The best way to determine whether this word is talking about people or the physical creation is context. The context of everything we have read so far and all of **Romans 8** is talking about people so I think this is probably the best way to interpret this passage.

c. What about **Isaiah 11:6-7**? Look at **Isaiah 11:10** to get the full context. According to **Romans 15:12** this has been at least partially fulfilled and is talking about the gentiles. It's quite possible the wolf, lamb, leopard, falling, bear, and cow are all symbolic of people. **Romans 15:7-12**. ex: Jesus Revolution - we need to accept those far from God in the next great move of God.

d. Creation (people are waiting for the revealing of the Sons of God) ex: Asuza Steet. William Seymour got a revelation of the glory that was in Him and as he believed and prayed he was used to change the world. Many were crying out for this glory and got used Seymour to bring the answer.

3. **Verses 20-22** God subjected creation to futility because of Adam's transgression. He did it in hope though, because He knew He was sending Jesus and we would be delivered. **When we hear and believe the gospel we are delivered from bondage. What's the key, the manifestation or revealing of the Sons of God. We must get a revelation of who we are in Christ.**

4. **Verse 23** We have received the firstfruits of the spirit. The idea is earnest money. We put earnest money down as a guarantee the full payment is coming. What's the full payment? We get a glorified body - **1 Corinthians 15:42-44**.

5. **Verses 22-26** We see 3 groanings: creation, unbeliever, and the Holy Spirit (through) us. He's wanting to move through us to bring breakthrough to bring substance to people's hope. ***Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***

III. Conclusion - God is wanting to use each of us to bring the answers to someone else's prayers. My example about moving back here. Also, (God heard the cries of the children of Israel and sent Moses). Moses had to get a revelation of who we was to step in and do his part.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer - Pray people hear God about He wants to use them to change the world around them.