

Romans: A Study on Reformation  
Lesson 6 “Dismantling the Spirit of Hypocrisy”

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. Reform is a compound word. Re means to do again and form means to make or create. Reform does not mean to add to. God wants to go deeper that just bring revival to our nation. He wants to reform it. **Explain the difference between reformation and revival. This is about a new culture - way of doing life (return of Jesus to the center, parents more involved in kids lives, an understanding of identity, etc.**

B. The main problem Paul wanted to reform with the church in Rome was the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles. The Jews believed they were God’s chosen people and they should be in charge and the Gentiles should adopt their customs. The Gentiles believed God had moved on from the Jews because they rejected Jesus so they thought they should be in charge and the Jews should adapt Gentile customs.

C. Last week we looked at how Paul brought correction to the Jewish Christians for being judgmental on the gentiles. He wasn’t excusing gentile sin, but what he was doing is leveling the playing field to show we all have a need for a savior no matter our heritage, religious upbringing, or our good works.

1. To make this practical, many times we are like the Jews Paul addressed in **Romans 2**. We’re doing the same stuff in secret that the world is doing in public, or at least want to. ex: Kim Kardashian example. This is hypocrisy and is a massive problem.
2. This doesn’t make those in the world feel safe to come to church and draw close to Jesus. Our pride, runs others from the Lord.
3. Today we are going to look at all of this issues as we will study the further in **Romans 2** and talk about how to dismantle the spirit of hypocrisy.

II. The Spirit of Hypocrisy

A. **Luke 12:1** Jesus warned of the leaven of the the Pharisees - hypocrisy.

1. What is hypocrisy? **hupōkrisis**, acting under a feigned part. The idea of a stage player (actor). example of 1980’s ministers and adultery - were framing one another and having incidents recorded while they were also committing adultery.
2. **Matthew 23:23-28** Jesus’s response. Here’s the point I want you to catch. Jesus isn’t saying its wrong to do right actions. He’s wanting the actions to come from a right heart.

**3. Hypocrisy isn't having a standard and falling short. Hypocrisy is being fake or pretending to be something you have no intention of being.**

4. **Luke 12:2** We don't want to do this because there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed. It will all come out in the end.

B. The Process of Judging - We need to examine this because many Christians get into an extreme where they say anything can go because they don't want to be perceived as judgmental or a hypocrite.

1. **Matthew 7:1-5** Process of judging - we can judge fruit, not hearts (**Matthew 7:16-20**). ex: Marriage conflict - this made me feel, not this is why you do what you do.

2. **The point in Romans is the Jews didn't have a right to look down on the rest of the world because they were Jewish. This is what they were doing.**

### C. **Romans 2:1-16**

1. **Verses 1-3** Paul says the Jews are just as guilty as the gentiles they are condemning because they also live in sin (lie, steal, cheat, commit adultery, etc).

2. It's important to note that Paul is talking about Jews who have not been born again. Those who were born again and were practicing hypocrisy - their sin is thrown in the Sea of Forgetfulness.

3. **Verse 4** The goodness of God leads to repentance (not His wrath).

4. **Romans 2:5-13** Paul continues to level the playing field as he begins to show that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (**verse 11 no partiality**).

4. **Romans 2:14-16** Paul further condemns the religious spirit by describing how Gentiles have an intuitive knowledge of right and wrong. Paul effectively undoes what many of the Jews believed about having a special favor with God just because they were religious. Paul levels the playing field and shows we are all guilty before God and we all need a savior.

III. Conclusion - The reality is we still see this in our churches today. Kelsey Grammar movie - "Jesus Revolution." Jesus people movement with hippies wearing jeans, sandals, being perceived as unclean. Not accepted in the church. Some of the elders were worried about the hippies dirtying the carpet. The pastor, Chuck Smith said, "We'll just pull up the carpet then."

A. So how do we guard against this. **Philippians 1:9** our love should abound in discernment. The love of God lays down its life. If we aren't willing to lay down our lives we should probably keep our mouth shut about others.

B. Call up prayer team and pray closing prayer.