

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 40 “Authentic Christianity”

I. Introduction and Review - We are continuing our series on **Romans** today. We have been focusing on reformation and how Paul sought to reform the church in Rome.

A. The specific issue Paul was dealing with was strife between the Jewish and Gentile home churches. The Jews kept trying to get the Gentile to keep the the law, while the Gentiles had an attitude of superiority because the Jews were the ones who crucified Jesus. They sort of thought God was done with Israel. All of this created a ton of strife and kept them from impacting the culture in Rome the way they should have.

B. After spending 3 chapters explaining God’s redemptive plan which included both the Jews and Gentiles, Paul makes a shift in **Romans 12** about how these people should live in the light of everything God had done for them.

1. **Romans 12:1** says we are to be a living sacrifice (we yield everything to Jesus, which is a work of the spirit, not a work of the flesh).
2. Once we endeavor to yield everything to Jesus, the next step to live out God’s plan for our lives is to renew our minds or transform how we think.
3. Last week we covered **Romans 12:3-8** where Paul tells us to use our spiritual gifts. This is a command. We are to use them in proportion to our faith.

C. We are going to cover **Romans 12:9-15** today. Before I tell you the title of my message, I want to tell you a story.

1. Years ago there was a young man who grow up in India who was a Hindu. He was introduced to the Bible and began to read the gospels and became intrigued with Jesus. One day he decided to go to church, but was turned away because he wasn’t in the proper caste or white. He stated years later, “If it weren’t for Christians, I would have become a Christian.”
2. That man was Mahatma Ghandi. He became one of the greatest leaders India ever had. Imagine the impact he could have had if he would have been a Christian. Maybe instead of leading political protests, he’d have led a revival.

II. Authentic Christianity - Hypocritical Christianity sent Ghandi to hell and may have deprived the world of a great Christian leader so today, we’re going to talk about what Authentic Christianity look like.

A. **Romans 12:9-15**

1. **Verse 9** Let your love (agape) hypocrisy. The word hypocrisy comes from a root word - **hupōkrinōmai** - to decide (speak or act) under a false part, i.e.

(figuratively) dissemble (pretend):—feign. **In Greek culture, hypocrites were actors who wore masks and played parts.**

- a. Hypocrisy isn't having a standard and falling short. Hypocrisy is being fake or pretending to be something you have no intention of being.
- b. **Matthew 7:3-6** We are supposed to remove specks from people's eye. We just aren't supposed to do it with a beam in our eye. That is hypocrisy. Ex: preachers in the 1980's who accused others of having affairs while they were doing the same.
- c. How are we called to love? **1 John 3:18** with action. Interestingly, the gospels don't record Jesus ever telling anyone He loved them, but how did everyone who walked away from an encounter with Jesus feel after they left? Jesus was genuine. He lived out of His identity as a Beloved Son.
- d. Abhor what is evil. Cleave to what is good.

2. **Romans 12:10-15** In the next several verses, Paul tells us what it looks like to authentically love others.

- a. Be kindly affectionate - **philóstorgos**, from **G5384** and *storgé* (familial kind of love). Phileo can be taught even if not felt. **Titus 2:4 KJV**
- b. We are to prefer others - put others in front of ourselves. What did Jesus do for us on the cross? Ex: In the military, officers eat last. They put the needs of their soldiers above their own. This makes them feel cared for and breeds loyalty. **This is the impact we can have as disciples.**
- c. We serve with great effort by the power of the spirit.
- d. Fervent in spirit serving the Lord. **Zéō**, to be hot (boil, of liquids; or glow, of solids), i.e. (figuratively) be fervid (earnest):—be fervent. **Must let Jesus fill your cup in order to fill other people's cups.**
- e. Rejoicing in hope (not our circumstances). Hope comes from the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:13**). He's sent to fill our cups.
- f. Patient in tribulation. Why? When we let patience have its perfect work we are complete and want nothing. **James 1:4.**
- g. Blessing and not cursing those who persecute us. This is only done by the power of the spirit.
- h. Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. This means we genuinely care about others. **Romans 5:4** The love of God has been poured out in our heart by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. From there we pour it out on others.

III. Conclusion - Jesus said in **John 13:34-35** that all the world will know you are my disciple by your love for one another. Is it possible the great revival we are all waiting for will begin when we really get a revelation of God's love for us so we can extend it to one another?

As I said earlier, we cannot pour out what we haven't first received. If you haven't received the authentic love of Jesus for yourself, everything you attempt to pour out will be an imposter. I'm

going close by praying you to get a fresh revelation of the love of Jesus. As Jesus fills your cup, you'll be able to pour Him out on others. Ex: How do you know a cup is full?

A. Call Up Ministry Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer