PARTICIPANT HANDOUT | LESSON 16

Romans Part 2

From Condemnation to Life in the Spirit

BIG IDEA United with Christ and indwelt by the Spirit, believers have new life, assurance, and hope despite sin and suffering.

Series location: Lesson 16 of 24 | Romans 5-8

Primary texts: Romans 5:1-21; 6:1-14; 7:24-8:4; 8:14-39

Controlling question: What does God give those who are united to Christ?

Follow Paul's argument

PASSAGE	MOVEMENT
5:1-11	Justification brings peace with God, access to grace, and hope in suffering.
5:12-21	Christ becomes the representative head of a new humanity ruled by grace and life.
6:1-7:25	Union with Christ gives a new identity; the good law cannot rescue people ruled by sin.
8:1-39	The Spirit gives freedom, adoption, hope, help, and assurance.

Two representatives two humanities

IN ADAM	IN CHRIST
Sin and death enter and reign	Grace and righteousness reign
Disobedience and condemnation	Obedience and justification
The old humanity ends in death	The new humanity receives eternal life

The gospel does not merely improve Adam's old humanity. God joins believers to Christ and gives them a new standing and identity.

United with Christ

WHAT IS TRUE	THEREFORE
We were joined to Christ's death	Count yourselves dead to sin
We were joined to Christ's resurrection life	Count yourselves alive to God
Our old self was crucified with Christ	Do not let sin reign in your body
We have been brought from death to life	Offer yourselves and every part of yourself to God

Grace changes more than our verdict. It changes our realm, master, and direction. Christian obedience flows from an identity received, not acceptance earned.

Life in the Spirit

GIFT	PROMISE
Freedom	There is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.
Adoption	The Spirit bears witness that we are God's children and heirs with Christ.
Hope	Present groaning will give way to the redemption of our bodies and renewed creation.
Help	The Spirit intercedes when weakness leaves us without words.
Assurance	Nothing in creation can separate us from God's love in Christ.

ROMANS 8:28 IN CONTEXT Paul does not say that everything is good. God works through every circumstance for the good he defines in verse 29: conforming his people to the image of Christ.

Discuss

1. How is fighting sin from a secure identity in Christ different from fighting to earn God's acceptance?
2. What does Romans 8 allow Christians to say—and not say—when someone is suffering?
3. When feelings of assurance fluctuate, what grounds for confidence does Paul give?

BEFORE NEXT WEEK Read Romans 9-11. Mark every reference to Israel, Gentiles, election or calling, mercy, hardening, faith, and 'all Israel.'

FOR FURTHER STUDY
BibleProject, Romans 5-8 overview
Related: Genesis 3; John 15:1-11; Galatians 4:4-7
ECO: II.A; III.A; III.E | Class resources: scan QR.