

# ROMANS

CHAPTERS 1 - 11

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Thursday Nights  
7 - 8 PM  
ZOOM

MATERIALS AND LOGIN  
INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.REALCHURCHWALDORF.COM](http://WWW.REALCHURCHWALDORF.COM)



***Type one religious title or role you have held or currently hold.  
It can be big or small.***

**ROMANS 1-11**



## Overview:

1. Claiming Faith v. Living Faith - vv. 17-24
2. Authentic Relationship with God - vv. 25-27
3. Relationship and Obedience - vv. 28 - 29



**Romans 2:17 - 24**  
**Claiming Faith vs. Living Faith**

**ROMANS 1-11**



## Section Theme

Paul names five things people use to prove their allegiance to God—knowing scripture, evangelizing, correcting others, teaching, and possessing knowledge of truth. None of these are wrong. The problem is when we use them to claim a standing with God that our private lives do not support. When we *sin while doing all of these things*, we dishonor God and disqualify ourselves from judging others.

**ROMANS 1-11**



## Five Claims People Make to Prove Their Allegiance to God

1. Knowing God's will by studying Scripture



### Five Claims People Make to Prove Their Allegiance to God

2. Evangelizing and ministering to  
unbelievers



### **Five Claims People Make to Prove Their Allegiance to God**

3. Correcting, rebuking, or disciplining others in the faith.



### Five Claims People Make to Prove Their Allegiance to God

4. Teaching in the church



### **Five Claims People Make to Prove Their Allegiance to God**

5. Claiming the fullness of  
knowledge and truth



## Sin Dishonors God and Disqualifies the Critic

When we do these things while also sinning—**privately or publicly**—we dishonor the God we claim to represent.



## **Sin Dishonors God and Disqualifies the Critic**

This is why no one should condemn another for their sin while committing the same thing.



## **Sin Dishonors God and Disqualifies the Critic**

What you do in private always speaks louder  
than what you say in public.



## **Sin Dishonors God and Disqualifies the Critic**

What is one religious role or title you carry,  
and does your private life match it?



**Romans 2:25 - 27**

**Authentic Relationship with God is Internal,  
Not External**

**ROMANS 1-11**



## Main Idea of Passage

Paul uses circumcision as the defining symbol of Jewish religious identity to make a larger point: ritual only has value when it is backed by obedience. If you break the covenant, the ritual loses its meaning. And remarkably, someone who has never had access to the **Law** but obeys God through their conscience is counted the same as someone who has been circumcised.



## 6 Ways Paul Uses Law in Romans

1. Torah / Pentateuch
2. The Entire OT (*if Paul mentions 2+ genres: Torah, Prophets, Writings, Psalms, etc*)
3. Represent a Principle
4. Law of God / Ten Commandments
5. Law of Moses / Ceremonial Law
6. Method of Salvation



## Religious Ritual Has Value Only When Backed by Obedience

- Paul says circumcision (the covenant marker of the Jewish faith) is valuable when you keep the law.
- But if you break the law, your circumcision—your religious identity marker—becomes void. It means nothing before God.
- The ritual did not give them righteousness. The obedience did.



## Conscience Can Be a Path to God

- Paul makes a bold and inclusive statement: someone who has never been evangelized and has no access to scripture can still obey God through their conscience.
- Their obedience counts the same as someone who has been circumcised.
- God is not limited to the formally religious. He is present wherever people genuinely respond to what they know of Him.



## Conscience Can Be a Path to God

God honors the heart that seeks Him, even when it doesn't know His name yet.



### Ritual

**What religious habit or ritual do you do that has lost its meaning for you?**



## **Romans 2:28 - 29**

**It's Not About Jew or Gentile – It is About  
Relationship and Obedience**

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## Section Theme

Paul lands the passage with a stunning declaration: a true Jew is not one by birth or by outward sign—a true Jew is one inwardly, whose heart has been transformed by the Spirit. The same principle applies to every believer. What makes us authentic is not our group, our heritage, or our label. It is our relationship with God and our obedience to Him.

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## External Identity is Not Enough

- A true believer is not defined by outward markers—ethnic identity, religious heritage, denominational affiliation, or years of church membership.
- God is not impressed by categories. He is looking at the heart.
- Paul's original audience was Jewish. But the word lands the same for us: being raised in the church, having a minister in the family, or growing up in a Christian household does not make you an authentic believer.



## Authentic Relationship is Internal

- Paul says true circumcision is of the heart—carried out by the Spirit, not by written code.
- Authentic faith is what happens when you are alone with God. It is what shapes your decisions when no one is watching.
- A person's relationship with God is the true measure of their faith. Not their works, not their title, not their resume.



## God's Praise Is All That Matters

- Paul closes with this: such a person's praise does not come from other people—it comes from God.
- We often perform our faith for an audience. Paul is asking us to redirect our entire orientation toward God's opinion alone.



## God's Praise Is All That Matters

Are you living for God's approval or for people's  
applause?

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## God's Praise Is All That Matters

What would change in your life if God's approval was the only one you were seeking?

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