



Romans 8 Intro: How to unite the world

Romans 8:39 *“Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

The book of Romans is many things to many people. On the surface, this book is complicated. A Jewish scholar would be confused and delighted all at the same time. The rest of the world beyond the Jewish nation would be confused as well. Romans is a Jewish book mainly because a Jewish Jesus is presented to His brethren. The Jewish Paul is trying to make a bridge from the Law of Moses to the Law of the Spirit. In Christian circles, there is a concept called the Romans Road. It's a series of verses spread out in the Book of Romans. These verses can loosely lead you down a road to Jesus the Christ. What it means is that Romans is a book for all people.

It's been a road or journey for me. Some Bible studies are easy to write. This one has taken months. In so many ways I am scared to write it. What if I get it wrong? Paul is a very smart man. His writing is off the charts. This book is so deep and theological. A casual reader might miss most of its deep meaning. Paul is speaking to ancient Jews. Yet, the word of God is speaking to gentiles. I would even say this book is talking to the saved and un-saved. My point is

that we cannot understand Romans in a day or week. It takes work to get a small glimpse of the meaning.

Many Bible verses have more than one meaning. John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* This one verse alone talks about God's love. It also talks about eternal life and Jesus' sacrifice. Books have been written on this one verse. How can a Bible study be written on Romans? The simple answer is it can't! How do you eat an elephant? One piece at a time. The only way to understand Romans is to study it one piece at a time. So, I have chosen Romans 8.

Why not start at chapter one? I suspect that Romans 8:28 has been quoted almost as much as John 3:16 *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* Some would say that we need to read the whole book to understand Romans 8. I will contend that this chapter 8 is the template for much of Paul's writing. Through this study, you will see me quoting other chapters Paul has written. The connection to Romans 8 is unmistakable. If we get Romans 8, we will get a much deeper understanding of Paul's other works and the Bible as a whole.

It's all in the words. Paul explains the law, Christ, Jesus, Spirit, and Father all in Romans 8. The other chapters of this book compliment chapter 8. Jesus is the Jewish Christ. The Law of Moses can't save us. The flesh (our desires) can't save us. Our own mind is either for God or for the world. It's regardless of your heritage: Jew or Gentile. This book speaks to people in Paul's day. Yet, it can speak to present day people too. What law governs your life? Do you live to satisfy your mind and body? Is the Spirit of God inside you? Romans 8 can help unpack those types of questions.

Let's take a journey down the Romans road. Specifically, within Romans 8. It's tough teaching from Paul. Yet, it can be understood. I won't unpack it all. It's way too deep for one study. Yet, I have found some threads that might help out our Christian understanding. This chapter is amazing. It's literary writing at its finest. I love good word play and storytelling. Take me on a journey where the world slips into the background. I believe Paul does that in Romans 8. What if it helped you understand God's motivations better? What if it unearthed the Christ in a better light? What if the Spirit played a bigger role than we thought? Finally, what if God could love you more than was possible in humans' eyes? That God sent His Son to save sinners rather than condemn their flesh? What if? Bring on Romans 8 next week!