

SUNDAY - July 19, 2026

UNASHAMED - Romans 1:1 - The Intro

SERMON SUMMARY:

Romans begins as Scripture's clearest presentation of the gospel and reminds us that what we believe about God matters deeply because bad theology produces fear, legalism, and distorted views of God's character. Rather than teaching that God rewards self-reliance or that every hardship is punishment for sin, Romans points us to a gracious Father who calls helpless sinners to trust Him. Sound doctrine replaces shame with assurance and transforms religion from a performance into a relationship.

Paul's own life proves the gospel's power. Once a persecutor of the church, he became a devoted servant of Christ, showing that no one is beyond God's redeeming grace. At the heart of Romans is the good news that Jesus, fully God and fully man, died and rose again to defeat sin and death, offering forgiveness, adoption into God's family, and new life through faith alone. As Romans unfolds, it reshapes our understanding of God and calls believers to live with joy, confidence, and wholehearted service.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 1:1, Lamentations 3:33, Job 8:4, Isaiah 6, Genesis 3, 1 Corinthians 11, Luke 7, Psalm 23, John 13

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What three things does Paul call himself in the opening of his letter?
2. According to the sermon, what were some of the specific misconceptions or "bad doctrines" that people commonly believe about God?
3. What dramatic event changed Paul from a persecutor of the church into a servant of Jesus?
4. How is the gospel defined in contrast to being mere advice or a list of doctrines?
5. Why does incorrect teaching about God (bad doctrine) have such damaging effects on a person's daily life and relationship with Him?
6. Paul's life was marked by relentless service after his conversion. How does understanding the depth of God's forgiveness create a natural impulse to serve rather than to hide or perform?
7. The illustration of the two chairs presented two different views of God's disposition toward humanity. What is the fundamental difference between a God who must be turned back to us and a God who is always turning back toward us?
8. If God's holiness doesn't mean He avoids sinners but instead restoratively engages with them (like Jesus did), how should that reshape our understanding of what it means to be holy?
9. Reflect on your own view of God. Is it more characterized by a fear of punishment or a secure sense of being a welcomed son or daughter? What is one practical step you can take this week to move closer to the reality of His grace?
10. Consider the statement "big forgiven sins birth brilliant lovers." How can remembering the specific ways you have been forgiven fuel compassion and service toward someone you find difficult to love?
11. Servanthood was presented as a key indicator of a transformed life. What is one mundane, humble task you can perform this week as an act of service to your family, a neighbor, or your community, doing it "as unto the Lord"?
12. Identify one area of "folk theology" or a simplistic belief you've held (e.g., God helps those who help themselves, suffering is always punishment). How can studying Scripture correct this and bring greater freedom and joy?

13. The gospel is good news about historical events, not good advice. Who is one person in your life who needs to hear this news recounted? How can you share the story of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection with them in a simple way?
14. Performance-based religion leads to either pride or shame. What is one thing you try to "do" to feel accepted by God? How can you instead rest in the truth that your standing is based entirely on Christ's finished work