

SUNDAY - August 9, 2026

UNASHAMED - Romans 1:16-17 - The Just

SERMON SUMMARY:

Romans 1:16-17 declares that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation and calls believers to live unashamed of its message. The Gospel confronts human sin while offering forgiveness and new life through Christ alone, bringing real transformation to hearts, relationships, and communities. Paul emphasizes that salvation is not earned through moral effort, religious rituals, or good works, but is received by faith alone in Jesus Christ.

At the heart of the passage is the truth that justification comes before sanctification. God declares sinners righteous through faith, giving them a new identity as His children, and that identity then produces a transformed life. True faith is more than agreeing with facts about Jesus; it is personally trusting Him and resting in His finished work. Communion continually reminds believers that Christ's death and resurrection have secured their adoption, righteousness, and calling to live each day by faith.

SCRIPTURE:

Romans 1:16-17

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. According to Romans 1:16, what is the Gospel, and what specific power does it possess?
2. Who receives the saving power of the Gospel, according to the same verse?
3. Romans 1:17 reveals how a righteous person lives. What is the active principle of their life?
4. The sermon used several analogies (birth, adoption, marriage) to describe how we receive our identity in Christ. What is the common thread in all these examples regarding how the identity is obtained?
5. Why does proclaiming that Jesus is the only way to salvation (John 14:6) often lead to being mocked or shamed in today's culture?
6. The concept of "identity preceding activity" was a major theme. How does understanding that our status as God's children is a declared fact, not an earned reward, change the motivation for obeying God?
7. The sermon distinguished between merely knowing facts about Jesus and personally trusting in Him, using the example of demons who believe but tremble. What is the practical difference between intellectual agreement and life-entrusting faith?
8. If someone is trying to "perform their way into belonging" with God through moral striving or religious rituals, what fundamental truth about the Gospel have they likely misunderstood?
9. The Gospel is described as the power that recharges a believer, like filling a cup or charging a phone. What does it look like for you to personally "plug in" to the Gospel on a daily or weekly basis to be re-energized in your faith?
10. Our identity in Christ is meant to reorient our decisions, sacrifices, and vocational choices. Is there a specific area of your life (career, relationships, finances) where you are being challenged to make a decision based on who you are in Christ rather than what is safest or most comfortable?
11. Faith was illustrated as trusting a father to catch you at the bottom of a slide, not just understanding the physics of the slide. What is one "slide" in your life right now—a situation requiring trust and not just information—where God is asking you to step out in faith?
12. The righteousness we have is God's own righteousness, given to us. When you feel ashamed or defined by a past failure, how can you actively remind yourself that your true identity is a "thrice-holy citizen of Heaven"?

13. Communion was presented as a weekly reminder of Christ's finished work. How can participating in Communion serve as a regular reset for you, moving your focus from your own performance back to God's grace?