

# TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are United To Christ

April 12, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction.**
- Paul is teaching the Roman church—rich, poor, Jews, Gentiles, slaves, nobility, all types of people—how Jesus Christ has created a new race of people who are empowered by the Gospel to show the world a better way to be human. Being a Christ-follower is more than just going to heaven when you die...it's being heaven on earth to the world around you.
- **Read Romans 6:5-14.**
- **Here are four Gospel realities that will transform your life: know, count, offer, grace.**
- Discuss the following two statements by Pastor Derwin and how they are counter intuitive to what “religion” teaches:
  - *I'm not going to tell you what to do (good advice), but I am going to tell you what Christ has done for you (Good News)!*
  - *Quit trying to achieve and start learning to receive.*
- **Know that you are united to Christ and you're set free from sin's power.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 6:5-10.**
- United is one of the most important gospel contents in the Bible. Your life is inextricably woven with Jesus forever...when God looks at you, He sees Jesus. You are eternally one with Jesus. The way God feels about Jesus, He feels about you! Not because of what you've achieved, but because of what Jesus achieved.
  - Why is it so important for you to be aware that “the scene of the crime is your mind”?
  - How did you relate to the example of “Adam” being chained to Pastor Derwin?
  - What areas of life do you pick Adam back up?
  - In what ways do you try to fix your life?
  - How does knowing that Christ has forgiven you for your sins—past, present, and future—change the way you live?
- Jesus is the key to setting you free from your prison. He became a mess on the cross and resurrected so that you could be set free.
  - What prison did/does Jesus set you free from in your life? (Prison of comparison, envy, greed)
  - When Jesus sets us free it often hurts. But that hurt pales in comparison to the healing He gives. Can you share a story of the hurt and healing Jesus brought in your life?
- **Count yourself alive to God and dead to sin in Christ Jesus.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 6:11.**
- The Gospel is about what Jesus has achieved for you...count yourself dead to sin/alive in Christ!
  - How does the following practice change the way you live? *Focus more on Christ alive in you than the temptations attacking you.*
  - How does focusing on Christ alive in you change the way you look at your past hurts and disappointments?
- When you focus on Jesus—His power, beauty, and glory—instead of your sin, that's when transformation happens in your life.
  - How does this do away with the victim mentality?
  - When you focus on trying not to sin, what are your two outcomes? (HINT: pride or despair)
  - How does focusing on Jesus do away with “self-help” tips?

- **Offer yourself to God as a weapon of righteousness.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 6:11-13.**
- Instrument means weapon.
  - o What sin wants to reign in you?
  - o How does that sin become an instrument/weapon of wickedness in your life?
  
- Read and discuss how our second Value, *The Transformative Gospel of Grace*, explains how we become instruments/weapons of righteousness.
  - o *We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to be a community that invites and seeks out the wounded, the broken-hearted, and the marginalized so that they can be transformed by the Gospel of grace into the image of Jesus, joining Him in His mission to transform the world. We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to the belief that Grace is Jesus Himself coming to live in and through His people. Life in the Kingdom is empowered by the King of Kings, not human effort.*
  
  - o What does being a weapon of righteousness look like for you?
  
- **You can glorify God because you are under grace.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 6:14.**
- Discuss the differences between living under the law and living under grace.
  
- **Soul-Tattoo:**
  - o Repeat these Gospel-realities 3 times a day: know, count, offer, grace.
  - o Sign up for our membership class on May 31 and June 7.
  
- **Close in prayer.**