



**Reaching,
Restoring,
Raising Up**

1140 Morrison Dr
Fort Worth, TX 76120-3426

Phone: 817-451-5513
Email: allan@celebrationnet.com

We're on the Web!
Www. Celebrationnet.com

L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Romans 5:1-6

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Talk about how it feels to be an “insider” and how it feels to be an “outsider”. In your relationship with God, which of these seems to describe you best, and why?
2. Think about the importance of acceptance and access to God when it comes to the growth of our faith. How can you apply these truths when you are struggling—be specific?
3. Share which of the “problems” (the world, the flesh/self-will, Satan) that grow us, that you seem to encounter most. Why do you think that is?
4. In your response to struggle, where are you right now—retreat, resentment, resignation, or determination to resolve it? What will it take for you to move to the next level?
5. Share an experience in which you persevered and your faith grew as a result. What did that do to your belief in the “glory” of God? What lessons from that can you pass on?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

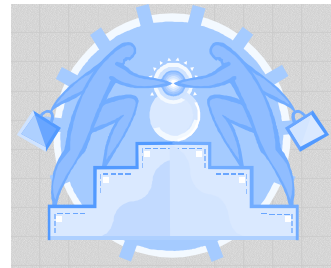
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find
Yours Below and Join Us!**

Adult Bible Fellowships

Locations, Times, Descriptions

9:00

10:45



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

Room	9:00 Description	Room	10:45 Description
Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Bower-Chappell
Rm 112		Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims	Rm 201	How People Grow
Rm 202		Rm 202	“ “ “
Rm 203	Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 203	30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 204		Rm 204	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	Open—Regis-Anderson
Rm 206	Experiencing God—Graham	Rm 206	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	College—Ayres-Getchell
		Gym	Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker

October 24, 2004

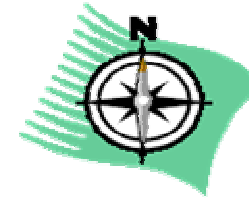
Extreme Makeover (Inside Edition)

Principles of Internal Change From the Book of Romans

Celebration Fellowship

Living the Dream

A preview of Romans 6-7



Volume 3, Issue 8
October 24, 2004

Inside this issue:

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Study Guide	2-3
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The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Regardless of how the American “dream” of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” is interpreted, it is a compelling goal for many Americans. Almost everyone wants to “live the dream” that leads to their happiness. God wants the same thing for us; as we see in Romans 6-7, He, too, wants us to have life and freedom, and the joy that comes with them. This is made possible because of certain spiritual realities. One of these, God's acceptance of us by grace through faith, means that we no longer have to live in dread of God's

wrath, or under the domination of sin. Some might think that this “grace” basis for life might lead to fleshly indulgence, but the truth is that if one has been changed by God, deep down he no longer wants to live that way. As Romans 6 says, we show who our leader is by the way we live out our lives. Another related spiritual reality is that, since we are now “in Christ”, we have died with Him to sin, which gives us freedom, and have been raised with Him, which gives us true life. Although through Christ we have been set free



God wants to remake us from the inside out.

from sin, the body of sin, our flesh, has not ceased to exist; so, while our true, spiritual nature wants to follow Christ, our minds often choose to serve sin. This frustrating tension can only be resolved through Christ. It is only by depending on Him that we can truly “live the dream”.

A New Lease On Life

(Romans 3:21-5:21)

Although it rarely happens, getting a second chance to “get it right” makes us feel like we're getting a new lease on life. This is exactly what God has done for us through Christ. Mankind has “blown it” with respect to fulfilling God's righteousness, but He has given us an opportunity for a new lease on life through faith in Christ. This has come about because He has made a way for us to have His righteousness, which is who He is and what He does. While witnessed to by the Old Testament, this has been made fully known through His Son, Jesus, who lived it, rather than through the written Law. This is vital for us, since we can't live up to the Law; but, all who believe in Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, receive the righteous life that He lived. Additionally, the sins of all who believe are paid for by Christ's sacrifice on the cross, satisfying God's justice. While this is important for all who have lived after the time of Christ, it is even more

so for those who lived before Him. The Bible reveals that their sins were passed over, but not paid for, because animal sacrifices couldn't really pay for human sins. But Christ's sacrifice was an adequate sin offering (propitiation) for all who believe, granting them forgiveness. Thus, it allowed God to be true to Himself, and the justifier of all who believe in Christ. Since all of this is God's work through Christ, we cannot personally boast about it; rather we should show gratitude to God and grace to others, in light of all that God has done to make us right before Him. The greatest example of the righteousness that comes by faith is Abraham, the father of the Jews. In Genesis 15:6 it says that when Abraham heard God's promise that he would have a physical descendent that came from us own body, he believed God. The Bible goes on to say that his faith was considered by God to be righteousness. It was not a physical act, or good

work, but it was, indeed, a spiritual act of righteousness before God. Significantly, it was not on the basis of a good work, such as circumcision, or of keeping the Mosaic Law, that he was declared right before God; if that had been the basis then he could have taken credit for his righteousness. But, since Abraham was considered right before God on the basis of faith, God received all the credit, a major reason why God did not choose the keeping of the Law as a basis for being acceptable before Him. The Psalmist, David, also affirmed this in Psalm 32, as he spoke of the gift of forgiveness he received when he finally confessed his sin. This experience led him to exclaim how blessed are those who are forgiven when they confess their sin. By calling it a blessing, David underscored the fact that forgiveness is truly an undeserved gift from God, and is accessed only by the one who believes that God will graciously forgive. Thus righteousness is again

(Continued on page 2)

Romans 3:21-5:21 (continued from pg 1)

seen as a gift of grace that comes through faith, rather than through earning it by our good works. This is true not only when we are first saved, but as we go on in life, God continues to accept us on the basis of grace through faith, rather than by our good works. So, we never have to "earn" God's favor, but are able to enjoy it as we go through life. Abraham's story further emphasizes that faith in Christ is God's way of righteousness for everyone, and not just for Jews. Since Abraham was declared righteous by faith before he ever submitted to circumcision (the outward sign of being a Jew), it is obvious that anyone, Jew or Gentile, can be right before God by faith. In fact this fulfilled God's promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, since he is the "father of faith" to all who believe. Thus, every nationality may be represented on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ. Since Abraham wasn't circumcised when it was given, God's promise to Abraham that he and his descendents would inherit the world couldn't have come through the Law. Further, the Law brings about God's wrath, because it can't be kept; but the promise by faith brings about God's favor, which Abraham received by faith. This was expressed by his

believing God's promise, in spite of outward appearances, and, in the face of negative reality, he believed in who God is and what He had said. This confidence is what true faith is about. Similarly, when we believe God and His Word in the face of negative reality, He sees us as righteous. This righteousness is made possible through Christ's sacrifice for us, and by God's acceptance of this sacrifice, which was shown by His raising of Jesus from the dead. The blessings of this justification before God are peace with Him, and an entrance into a life of grace, not works. Moreover, we exult over the prospect of future glory with God, and are able to have joy and hope in our tribulations because of the godly character they build



"As we go on in life, God continues to accept us on the basis of grace through faith"

in us. God's grace to us is further seen in His love, which was demonstrated by the death of His Son for us while we sinners at enmity with Him. By His initiative He has saved us from His wrath, made us His friends (reconciled us), and thus given us a reason to exult in Him, who is obviously on our side. Considering that we are all natural born sinners, descended from Adam, the first sinner, and thus enslaved to death (which ruled the world), it is amazing that we now live as "kings" of life. But this happened because the "2nd Adam", Jesus, by virtue of His death on the cross, became the "father" of the righteous, through faith in Him. So, just as "in Adam" all died, all those who believe "in Jesus" are now made alive. Our sins have been replaced with Christ's righteousness in the sight of God, and now those who believe enjoy life and right standing before God, rather than death and God's condemnation. In summary, because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and God's acceptance of it through the resurrection, we can enjoy peace, joy, grace, hope, removal of God's wrath, friendship with Him, and experience eternal life that begins when we believe. We have truly been given a new lease of life.

Study Questions for Romans 6-7

Paul begins to show how to have victory over sin in everyday life.

1. Read Romans 6:1-4. What argument about grace based living did some have (v1) and what was wrong with it (v2)? What 2 things are true about believers in Christ (v3, 4), and how should it affect them (v4)?
2. From Romans 6:5-7 in what sense have we been "united" with Christ in His death (v6), and what does this mean to you? What is the practical application of this truth (v6, 7)?
3. Look at Romans 6:8-11. What 2nd benefit do believers have from being united with Christ (v8), and when is this benefit in effect (v8-10)? What should our purpose as Christians be (v10-11)?



"When we believe God and His Word in the face of negative reality, He sees us as righteous."

4. In Romans 6:12-14 what are we instructed to not do (v12, 13), and to do (v13)? Why should this be our plan of action (v14)? In your own words, how would you put this into effect?

5. Using Romans 6:15-18 what error does Paul address (v15) and what is wrong with this reasoning (v16)? What is the first step to serving God (v17), and what difference should it make (v18)?

6. According to Romans 6:19-23 what do our lives look like before and after Christ (v19), what are the results of each (v19-20), and the benefits of each (v21-22)? How does v23 sum up the gospel?

7. Read Romans 7:1-4. What points does Paul make about marriage that relate to the Christian life (v2, 3, 4)? To whom are Christians, in a sense, married (v4), how was this possible (v4), and what should result (v4)?

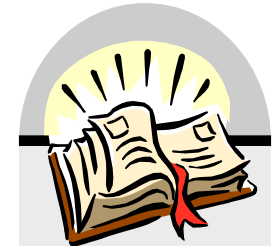
8. From Romans 7:5-6 how did our life before Christ operate (v5), and with what outcome (v5)? What allowed this to change (v6), and what is this outcome (v6)? How can we apply this?

9. In Romans 7:7-13 what error is refuted (v7), and how is it answered (v7)? How does the Law function (v8-9), and what is the result (v10)? Why is this good (v12-13)?

10. Looking at Romans 7:14-19 to what conflict does Paul call attention (v14), and to what does it lead (v15, 19)? What does this say about the Law (v16), and about us (v18)? How does this make you feel?

11. Using Romans 7:20-25 what is the Christian's true identity (v22, 25) and false identity (v20, 23, 25)? Where does evil dwell in us (v23-24), and how can we overcome it (v25)? How do you think we do this?

12. From Romans 6-7 summarize what the Spirit is teaching about the basis for victory over sin in the Christian life (6:6-8, 12-14, 19; 7:4, 6; 21-24). In your own words apply this to your life.



Memory Verse

**"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
Romans 6:23**