

But Now...

Insights on Romans 3:9-31

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, October 8, 2017

Sins Domination...

(Romans 1:18-3:20)

- We are all _____

- We are all _____

- We are all _____

“But Now”...

(Romans 3:21-31, Colossians 1:21-23, Isaiah 43:25-26)

1. By His grace...

• We are justified _____

• We are justified _____

• Our justification is _____

• Our justification _____

• Our justification _____

2. We have _____

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 5” of our small group session!

We are glad that you have decided to take this journey digging into God’s Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way! This is a 10 week session of small groups as we will wrap up the week of November 12th.

Looking Back:

Each week we’ll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging or not so encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. Romans 3:9-31 tells us that Jesus is the only solution to our universal problem of sin. How do you think your friends and family who aren’t yet interested in Jesus would respond to hearing that everyone has a sin problem and Jesus is the only cure for it?

2. Sin has the power to separate us from the most important relationships in life. In what ways have you seen this separation happening in the world around you? How about in your own life?

Each week in “looking back,” we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and have an opportunity to share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God’s Word.

Looking Up:

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or needs some clarification?

1. The universal problem we all have is that we are sinners, and as a result, separated from God and dead spiritually. Spiritual death is not necessarily a feeling people have but a condition they are in. How do the following passages describe what it means for someone to be spiritually dead?

- **Ephesians 2:1-3, Titus 3:3, Colossians 3:5-7**

What does it look like to balance an awareness of and sadness for our sin with the joy of being a "new creation" in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) who is loved and forgiven?

2. Although God has dealt with the separation that our sins have caused in our relationship with him, the impact of those sins, and the sins done to us by others often continues to affect us. How could the following passages help us to continue to heal from the scars left by our sin?

- **James 5:16, Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 10:23-25**

How does our healing from past sins help us to become better ministers in the future?

3. Romans 3:21-31 tells the great news of our justification through Christ. Jesus made it, "just as if we'd never sinned." Sometimes it is hard to live in light of this truth. How do the following passages help us to further understand this truth?

- **Romans 5:1, John 8:31-38, Colossians 1:21-23**

What does it practically look like to live free in Christ, with the realization that we still sin?

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below:

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- Take a piece of paper and write down sins in your life you have been struggling with. Take the piece of paper and shred/burn it to help you understand justification more clearly.
- In the midst of tragedy in our nation, pray for the Lord to bring someone into your life with whom you can share threads of the Gospel.
- Pray for opportunities to share hope with someone who is hurting this week.

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!