

1. Unashamed (Continuing our journey thru Romans—Paul helping them to navigate the tension that defined that church—between Jew/gentile; grace/law; old/new—this is the framework of ch. 6 as he continues to guide them to what being truly unashamed means; how it is to be transformational in every way. It is about **newness**. Specifically in the text he puts it this way)
2. We Too May Live a New Life—Romans 6 (The Romans were holding on to the old—old way of defining themselves and others; old way of approaching relationships; the old way of allowing sin way too much influence in their lives. Paul is calling again for a reorientation; a completely new way of ordering lives and relating to one another. **To be unashamed, the old has to go!** To live the new life--)
  - a. Sin is no longer primary (no longer slaves to it; no longer offering our bodies as instruments to it. **It becomes dead to us.**)
  - b. Obedience to Christ takes priority (baptism reflects that; now alive to Christ, not sin. He energizes us, defines us, and recreates new life within us. Our bodies are now used as instruments of righteousness)
  - c. Freedom results (freedom to be unashamed in Jesus; freedom to overcome old constructs to develop new relationships in Christ; freedom to fully, totally embrace newness and all it means)
3. Newness
  - a. A consequence of grace
  - b. Fueled by the resurrection (important to understand this point—what Christ did by overcoming the grave empowers our newness—fueled by a continuing relationship with him—church supports this, but is not responsible to produce it in you)
  - c. Leads to eternal life (not the wages of sin)
4. “You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.” – Romans 6:18 (This verse kind of captures it all—there is a completely new paradigm now in Jesus—He brings newness and freedom to become our true self—who God created us to be. We die to the old destructive way only to embrace the new living way of Christ. This freedom allows us in obedience to throw ourselves completely into the newness—willing slaves—if you will—in following Christ. This reorients everything. Righteousness becomes our goal. New life, new goals, new relationship, new community, new eternal destination. We no longer sweat the old stuff, but fully and embrace the new and in this way we are unashamed of the gospel of Christ and all of changes it brings about in our lives. Until that happened in the Roman church, they would never become who they were supposed to be in Jesus; never overcome their differences; never be transformed. The same is true of us—until we fully allow Jesus to see us free; to totally embrace newness in him and reorient our life his way—shame, not unashamed will result. But the good news is—we can put away the old and embrace the new; we can die to sin and become alive in Christ. We can become truly free and unashamed!)