

Rethink Possible

Part 5

Key Scriptures: Romans 8:1-16; Matthew 5:17-18

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever met someone and had a bad first impression of them, only to find out they were different than what you first thought about them? Tell that story.
- Have you ever made a terrible first impression on someone and had to work hard to convince them otherwise? What happened?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Romans 8:1-4. What does it mean “there is now no condemnation”? How are we freed from the guilt of sin? Paul was a Pharisee, a Jewish sect that judged everything by the Law. What did Jesus do with the Law? (see Matthew 5:17-18)
- Read Romans 8:5-6. What does it mean to live “according to the flesh”? What does it mean to live “in accordance with the Spirit”? Does Paul mean my spirit or another Spirit? How do you live according to the Holy Spirit (God’s Spirit)?
- Read Romans 8:7-13. Why would our mind “governed by the flesh” be hostile to God? What does “the flesh” focus on? Does God ask us to focus on the rules? What does God desire us to focus on?
- Read Romans 8:14-16. What are the practical results of being led by the Spirit of God? How does Paul explain this in his letter to the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 1:5)?

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Charles Spurgeon said, “If your theology doesn’t change your behavior, it will never change your destination.” What does he mean by “Theology” and why would it change our behavior? How does that tie into Romans 8:5-6?
- We experience rules every day... the Laws we obey, the rules that govern the sports we play, or even the rules of conduct we have as students or employees. Do rules save you? If so, do they save our souls? If not, why are they important? What does save our souls?
- How does Uncle Ben’s advice to Spiderman, “With great power comes great responsibility” relate to Romans 8:12?
- What does it mean to be adopted into the family of God? How does Romans 8:16 describe this?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Examine your heart to discern whether you are led by “the flesh” or by the Spirit of God. Either way, pray that God continues to work in your heart as His child.

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Just like Jesus came to repair our relationship with God, take some time this week to repair a relationship in your life. Ask forgiveness, humbly thank them, demonstrate your heart by serving a need they have, etc. If challenged, point out that Jesus has changed your heart.