

Romans 12:1 - 15:33 - Introduction

Paul ends his theological explanation at 11:36. The focus has been on how sinful man can be brought into a right standing with God. This has ended. Paul will now turn to how that new "righteous" man should live his new life.

- This transition is similar to the transition at:
 - Ephesians 4:1
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:1
- Moods of speech
 - "Indicative" – the mood of reality. It indicates that the verb really happened, at least in the mind of the speaker. This was the mood of the verbs in Paul's doctrinal discussion in the first 11 chapters.
 - "Imperative" – the mood of command. Verbs in the imperative mood carry the force of a command. This is the mood of the verbs beginning in chapter 12.
 - Other examples Phil. 2:12-13 – *"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."*
 - Commands (imperative mood) in chapters 1-11 are rare and found at:
 - 6:11-13
 - 6:19
 - 11:18
 - 11:20
 - NOTE: the indicative and the imperative are NOT two phases of Christian life, but are ongoing and simultaneous. We continue to need God's indicative action to be empowered to perform God's imperative commands
- The word "righteousness" will occur only one more time in this book at 14:17.
- The concept is that if you have been made the righteousness of Christ by faith, then the rest of your earthly life will be lived developing that righteousness in your application and relationships.
- Paul's teaching in Romans 12:1-15:13 resemble Paul's teaching elsewhere:
 - 12:1-2 - Renewing of the mind Ephesians 4:17-24
 - 12:3-8 – diversity of gifts 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:11-17
 - 12:9-21 – demand for love 1 Thes. 4:9-12; 1 Cor. 13
 - 13:8-10 – love fulfills the law Gal. 5:13-15
 - 13:11-14 – wakefulness waiting for the Lord 1 Thes. 5:1-11
 - 14:1-15:13 – food issues with "weak" and "strong" 1 Cor. 8-10
 - The only issue that Paul addresses here that is not directly addressed somewhere in his other writings is Romans 13:1-7 (although Jesus addressed it in Mark 12:13-17 and Peter addressed it in 1 Peter 2:13-14). This may be due to the unvoiced issue of the Roman church was government authorities and their place in this "new world" of the "kingdom of the Christ" and the "new man". The other sections seem to be typical Christian teaching established in all the churches by Paul.
- The remainder of the book focuses on Christian conduct toward:
 - Other believers
 - Society (unbelievers; people hostile toward the faith)
 - Government (or, the state)
- Chapter 12-13 are general Christian conduct guidelines. But, 14:1-15:13 may be specific for the Roman believers' situation. How do we live "today" in the worldly kingdom while we are preparing for the "future" kingdom?