

Think Differently about Morality

2026-09-06 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Romans 3:21-28

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Romans 3 says all have sinned and that people are justified as a gift through faith, apart from works of the law. Pastor Matt compared right and wrong thinking with an old operating system. He emphasized drawing near to God by letting Jesus's sacrifice cover your life, rather than measuring your standing by good and bad behavior.

To get started

- What was it like to learn your way around a new device, place, or routine?

Looking Back at the Message

Give people room to question the sermon's comparisons without rushing to defend them.

- 1 Pastor Matt compared following Jesus to changing from one operating system to another. What do you notice about the way this picture frames the message?
- 2 He said, "Real depth ends in obedience," rather than simply receiving more information. How do you understand that claim?
- 3 He described right versus wrong as one operating system and near versus distant as another. What seems important about that contrast?
- 4 He shared how doing helpful tasks for his wife did not always create closeness, while talking about his day did. What does that story add to his point about nearness? OPTIONAL

Looking at the Passage

Allow silence around difficult phrases, and keep returning to the words of the passage.

- 5 Romans 3:21-28 repeats words such as righteousness, faith, law, and justified. What words, patterns, or contrasts stand out to you?
- 6 Romans 3:21-22 says God's righteousness has been revealed apart from the law, while the law and prophets testify about it. How do you understand the relationship described in these verses?
- 7 Romans 3:23-24 moves from all people sinning to people being justified as a gift by grace. What movement do you see between these statements?
- 8 Romans 3:25-26 speaks about Jesus, faith, blood, God's righteousness, and God being both just and the one who justifies. What questions do these verses raise for you? OPTIONAL
- 9 Romans 3:27-28 says boasting is excluded and that a person is justified by faith apart from works of the law. How does this conclusion connect with the earlier verses?

Bringing It Home

No one needs to share a personal experience that they would rather keep private.

- 10 He said people may measure themselves by right and wrong instead of paying attention to nearness with God. Where might these two ways of thinking show up in ordinary life?
- 11 Romans 3:24 describes being justified as a gift by God's grace. What thoughts or feelings arise when you hear that description?
- 12 He encouraged listeners to focus on being with God rather than constantly measuring whether they are doing right or wrong. What could that focus look like in daily life?

OPTIONAL

The Group Together

Listen for different responses, and make room for respectful disagreement.

- 13 Romans 3:27 asks, "Where is boasting?" and says boasting has been excluded. What questions does that raise about how people relate to one another in a church group?
- 14 He said changing operating systems can feel both amazing and frustrating. How might people in the same group respond differently to this message?
- 15 How has something someone else said added to or challenged your reading of Romans 3:21-28?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What thought from Romans 3:21-28 or the message would you like to keep considering?

You might pray about

- Honesty about questions raised by Romans 3:21-28
- Openness to receiving grace as a gift
- Awareness of God's nearness in ordinary life
- Patience as people consider the message in different ways