

Romans 1:16–17 Sermon Questions

April 26, 2026 — Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church

Romans 1:16–17 (NASB95): ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”

Main idea: Believing the power of the gospel produces zeal for the gospel

I. Exegetical questions:

- (1) Paul begins v. 16 with the conjunction “for.” Look at v. 15 and explain how this verse links with the previous verse. What in v. 15 is Paul trying to explain in v. 16? (v. 15 reads: So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.)
- (2) Based on the second “for” in the text (“For it is the power of God...”), why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel?

II. Theological questions:

- (1) What does it mean to be “ashamed” of something? Give some examples.
- (2) What aspects of the gospel do you consider “powerful?” How can the gospel still be powerful for Christians who already believe in the gospel?
- (3) Why do you think that believing the gospel is powerful produces zeal for the gospel mission? Is it possible to have zeal for the gospel if you do not think it is powerful? And vice versa, if you truly believe the gospel is powerful, will it inevitably produce zeal?
- (4) What is justification by faith alone? Can you explain this in 1 minute?

III. Practical questions:

- (1) What are some dangers that cause churches to drift from the mission?
- (2) What are some reasons we individually are not zealous for the gospel mission? When you were first saved, were you eager to share the gospel? Has this desire waned or increased?
- (3) What other “powers” do you think many churches rely upon when it comes to the mission of the church? What areas do you believe we risk falling into sinful pragmatism?
- (4) Do you think there are aspects of Christianity today that bring shame to Christians? If so, what effect could that have on our zeal?
- (5) On the one hand, some people pit doctrinal clarity against missional fervor. On the other hand, some people are dogmatic on every fine point of doctrine. There needs to be a theological triage that properly weighs primary, secondary, and tertiary doctrines. But which error do you think you risk falling into? Being overly dogmatic? Or not being dogmatic enough? Do churches take too many strong stances, or are they often shy about taking any stance at all? In a culture where Christianity becomes increasingly shameful, which seems more likely?