

An Overview of Romans

“Welcome One Another”

Paul's Ultimate Exhortation

Romans 15:5-9

Now may the God of perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed us for the glory of God. For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers, and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy.

You Are All One in Christ (1:18-5:11)

- (1) 1:18-32 – the set up
- (2) 2:1-29 – springing the trap on the judgers
- (3) 3:1-20 – ALL Roman Christians were enslaved to Sin
- (4) 3:1-26 – God has justified/set right ALL the Roman Christians
- (5) 3:27-31 – exclusive boasting is eliminated
- (6) 4:1-25 – Abraham is the father of ALL Roman Christians
- (7) 5:1-11 – ALL share a new unified boast

A New Common Boast

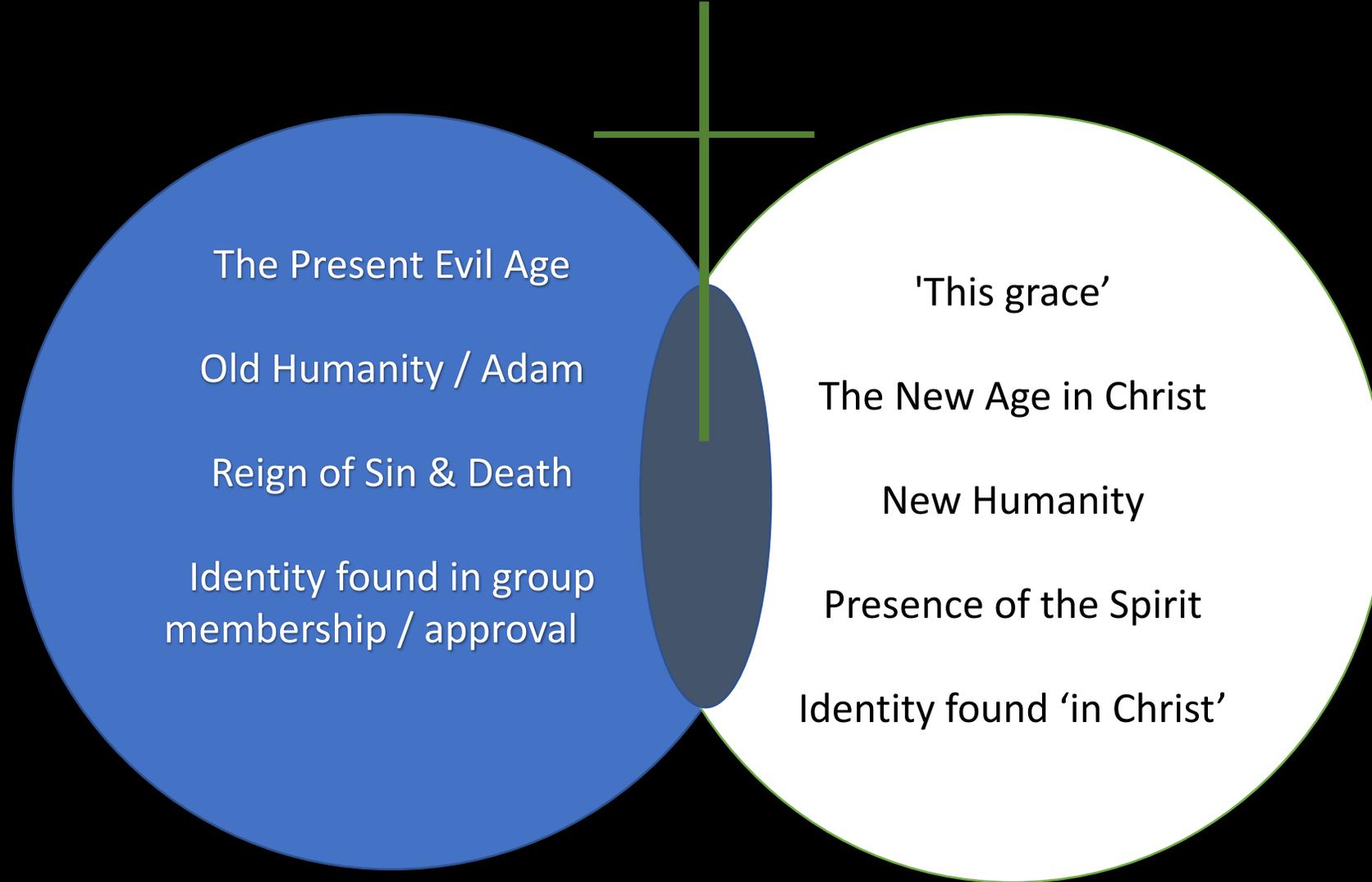
Boasting in group identity (“the right group”) is eliminated (3:27-31)

(1) Our future transformation (5:2)

(2) Our sufferings (5:3)

(3) Our belonging to God through Christ (5:11)

Two Cosmic Realms in Conflict



Cosmic Realms & Church Conflict (5:12-8:39)

- (1) 5:12-21 – the dynamics of two cosmic spheres
- (2) 6:1-23 – live under Christ's lordship, not Sin's
- (3) 7:1-25 – Sin's subtlety and its desire to divide us
- (4) 8:1-39 – inhabiting God's victory over Sin by reading Scripture in line with the Spirit's priority of unity and by co-suffering

The “Awe-ful” Freedom of God (9:1-11:36)

The question: How can God switch agents?

- (1) 9:1-33 – God will set aside an agent that becomes an obstacle
- (2) 10:1-21 – Israel disobeyed by policing group boundaries rather than welcoming the nations into the worship of God
- (3) 11:1-36 – God is faithful to his promises and will save Israel / warning against the gentile church’s arrogance

Living As God's New Creation (12:1-15:32)

(1) 12:1-13:14 – Embodying God's social justice (12:1-13:14)

(2) 14:1-15:8 – Welcome one another without trying to change one another

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Takeaways

- (1) The fundamental importance of church unity.
- (2) What does it look like to be Christian?
- (3) What does it mean to glorify God?