

# The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

**Series:** UNashamed  
**Title:** Unashamed  
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## Discussion

Many Christians have often regarded Paul as the biblical character who emphasizes faith and grace, whereas James is the biblical writer who emphasizes works. Such characterization is probably unfair and inaccurate, and unnecessarily dichotomizes those very important aspects by which we follow Jesus.

- In Romans 1:5, Paul talks about the “obedience of faith.” What do you think he means by this phrase? What is the relationship between faith and obedience?

In Paul’s greeting there are specific details about the identity and work of Jesus that Paul considers critical to include as he opens his letter.

- What does Paul find to be important to emphasize about Jesus in this section of the chapter (verses 1-6)?

In Romans 1:11-12 Paul describes his hope that when he comes to Rome, he and the congregation will mutually encourage one another. It might have even been strange for the members of the Roman Church to think they could play a role in being an encourager for Paul, a giant of the faith.

- Who are the people in your life that you look up to and receive encouragement from?
- Do you consider how you could encourage those people in return, or do you disqualify yourself from that because you assume (a) that you have nothing to offer or (b) that they are beyond the need of encouragement?
- Everyone needs encouragement and everyone can be used of God to give encouragement! What could you do this week to be an encouragement to that person (those people)?

Read Romans 1:16-17.

- Why do you think so many Christians today are so timid about sharing the gospel?
- What could bring about greater boldness in sharing about Jesus?

Share a personal experience in which you witnessed the power of the gospel at work in bringing real transformation.

Pray for one another, and for our church family as a whole, that like Paul we would be proud of the gospel message and consider it a privilege to live and share!