

May 23, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Gospel // Episode 6 : GRACE
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Romans 3:21-26

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ **and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.** ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

The Depravity Problem - Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

Moral Bankruptcy - Jesus has nothing to offer those who do not acknowledge their own moral bankruptcy.

I am a most noteworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous Presence. — Christopher Columbus

What is Grace?

1. **Grace is the righteousness of God on display.**
 - a. **God's righteousness - Vs. 21** *But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.*
 - b. **God's imputed righteousness - Vs. 22** *This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*
2. **Grace cannot be bought.**

Vs. 24 *And all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

 - a. A spontaneous gift from God to people – "generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved".
3. **The Grace of God is not devoid of consequence.**

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

 - a. **Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Grace and Merit - Our redemption cannot be purchased through our own suffering. That is the social theology of victimization.
4. **Grace offers salvation.**

¹ 'Grace', Komonchak et al (eds), Joseph A (1990). *The New Dictionary of Theology*. Dublin: Gill and oMacmillan. p. 437.

Vs. 25 *God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood - to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.*

5. Grace offers the resolution of regret.

2 Corinthians 7:10 *Godly sorrow brings **repentance** that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

Small Group Questions

1. Why is acknowledging our moral bankruptcy a requirement to receiving the grace of God?
2. Vs. 21 & 25-26 say that God demonstrated his righteousness by offering us forgiveness. Why is forgiveness an act of righteousness. Isn't it just as righteous to justly punish those who rightly deserve it?
3. Vs. 24 says that God's grace is free. Why can God's grace not be purchased?
4. Pastor Adam said that grace was not devoid of cost. Jesus paid the cost of grace. Why can't God just give grace without paying the cost?
5. 2 Corinthians says that Godly sorrow leaves no regret. What is the difference between Godly and worldly sorrow?