



Grace Made Visible: Romans 3:23-25, 5:8

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Group Leader Notes

Welcome to week two of our current series, Grit and Grace: Lessons from Paul's Letter to the Romans. Last week, we talked about how we're all broken, we've missed the mark, and fall into sin (Romans 3:23). We need God's love and righteousness. God rescues us through faith in him. Today, we will focus on an important theme: Justification by faith. It's this idea that makes grace visible.

Questions: How does Jesus' death on the cross make us right with God?

Bottom Line: Through Jesus' death on the cross we are justified, forgiven, and receive grace. It's how we reconcile our relationship with God.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Take Home Message:

This is what love looks like. It's sacrificial. It's emptying oneself for another. It's not a formula. It's God's love, his poetry in motion. It's what Jesus did for us on the cross. In our life we look at the cross, we see this was for me, God gave his one and only son to save me. In this one moment, God's love was made visible. God's grace made visible.

Main Scripture Reading:

Romans 3:23-25 ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, ^[a]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—

Romans 5:8 ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Other Scripture Reference:

Romans 1:16-18; Romans 1:29-31; Romans 2:1; Romans 6:22-23; Romans 3:26; & John 15:13

Teaching Points: Justification by Faith

- Jesus' life was given;
- As a ransom for you and me. Jesus' death on the cross pays our debt (God's wrath for our sins, mistakes, and failures) and frees us from sin and death;
- Jesus' death is a substitute for ours.

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. Pastor Joshua began his message by describing our universal problem of sin. He quotes Paul's own admission from Romans 7:15: ¹⁵ *I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*
 - Does this resonate with you?
2. Pastor Joshua admitted that it was also difficult for him to grasp how Jesus' death on the cross covers all of our sins (and the sins of the world).
 - What is your understanding of justification by faith?
 - What is the relationship between faith and works (actions)? (*Romans 3:24*)
3. Read Romans 6:20-23

²⁰ *When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.* ²¹ *What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!* ²² *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.* ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in [\[a\]](#) Christ Jesus our Lord.*

 - Why do you think Paul uses the idea of slavery to illustrate our relationship to sin?
 - As we consider what we are enslaved to, we find ourselves reaching for spiritual freedom. Some find the freedom of Jesus revolutionary and dramatically life-changing, while others are not impressed by it. What do you think gets lost in the messaging?
4. In Jesus' death we are justified, forgiven, and receive grace. There is nothing we can do to earn it. We can't lose it. We only need to accept it. What does this spiritual truth mean to you whether this is your first time hearing this or your millionth time?
5. As Jesus' death is God's grace made visible to us, so we were meant to make grace visible to others through acts of sacrificial love. Spend a few moments considering your relationships with family, friends, colleagues, and church community members.
 - What can you do this week to make grace visible to others?

Let's Pray John 13:34-35

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."