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Is God Unfair?

Romans 9:14-16

I. Is God Unjust? — Absolutely Not!! (v. 14)

- A. God's _____ defends what is right
(Gen. 18:25; Deut. 32:4; Psa. 92:15; 119:137; 145:17)
- B. God's sovereignty never _____ with His
righteousness (Psa. 115:3; 135:6; Isa. 46:9-10; Dan. 4:35)
- C. The problem is not God's justice—it's our _____
(Isa. 55:8-9; Job 40:2; Rom. 11:33-34)
- D. We must distinguish between justice, injustice, and
_____ (Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:3;
Rom. 11:35)

II. Who Decides Who Receives Mercy? —God Does! (v. 15)

- A. The context of God's mercy is Israel's _____
(Ex. 32:1–8, 19–20, 25–28)
- B. The need for God's mercy is exposed by Israel's _____
(Ex. 32:30–34; 33:1–3; Rom. 3:10, 12, 23)

- C. The revelation of God's mercy is connected to His
_____ (Ex. 33:12–19; 34:5–7)
- D. The distribution of God's mercy belongs to God's
sovereign _____ (Ex. 33:19; Rom. 9:15)

III. What Does Salvation Ultimately Depend On? — God! (v. 16)

- A. Salvation does not ultimately depend upon human
_____ (John 1:12–13; John 6:44;
Rom. 8:7–8)
- B. Salvation does not ultimately depend upon human
_____ (Eph. 2:8–9; Titus 3:5; 2 Tim. 1:9)
- C. Salvation ultimately depends upon God's sovereign
_____ (Rom. 9:16; Eph. 2:4–5;
Jonah 2:9)

TAKE HOME:

- Do I _____ God's character even when I
don't understand God's choices?
- Am I still taking _____ for something that was
entirely God's mercy?
- Does God's mercy toward me make me more merciful toward
_____?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others.

1. How does believing in God’s sovereignty reshape the way I respond when His providence doesn’t match my preferences or expectations? (Ps. 115:3; Dan. 4:35; Isa. 46:9–10; Rom. 11:33–34)
2. Where am I subtly accusing God of being unfair, and how does Scripture’s teaching on God’s justice correct my instincts about what I think I deserve? (Gen. 18:25; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 145:17; Rom. 9:14)
3. Do I confuse mercy with “fairness,” and how would my outlook change if I remembered that mercy is not owed but freely given? (Ex. 33:19; Rom. 9:15; Rom. 11:35; Eph. 2:4–5)
4. In what ways am I treating salvation as if it hinges on my willpower, sincerity, or performance instead of on God who shows mercy? (Rom. 9:16; John 1:12–13; Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8–9)
5. When I hit what I can’t explain about God’s ways, do I respond with humble worship or demanding control—what would it look like to accept my human limitation and trust God’s character? (Isa. 55:8–9; Job 40:2; Rom. 11:33–34; Ps. 92:15)
6. Where might spiritual pride show up in how I view unbelievers (as “less than” or “behind”), and how does remembering God’s mercy dismantle that superiority? (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:3–5; 1 Cor. 4:7; Rom. 9:16)
7. Am I tempted to delay coming to Jesus until I feel “worthy,” and will I simply trust Christ by repenting and coming to Him with His promise to receive all who come? (John 6:37; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9–13; Isa. 55:6–7)
8. Who have I “written off,” and what specific step can I take this week to extend mercy (patience, prayer, forgiveness, generosity, gospel witness) because God has shown mercy to me? (Matt. 18:21–35; Luke 6:36; Col. 3:12–13; Jas. 2:13)

“All people are condemned by their own sin and unbelief. If left to themselves, they would all perish. In addition to extending a genuine gospel invitation to all people, God chooses some of these condemned people to be special objects of His grace. But this does not mean that He arbitrarily chooses the others to be condemned. They are already condemned because they are lifelong sinners and have rejected the gospel. Those who are chosen can thank God for His grace. Those who are lost have no one to blame but themselves.”