

November 16th, 2025

Mercy > Fairness
Romans 9

Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.
Romans 9:13–18 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

- Paul’s heartbreak for Israel 9:1-5
- Privilege vs. calling 9:6-13
- Mercy is God’s prerogative 9:14-18
- The Potter and the clay 9:19-29
- A stumbling stone 9:30-33

Applying Romans 9

1. Be _____ by God’s mercy.
Rom 9:16; 1Tim 1:15
2. Let God _____ . Rom 9:15; Matt 20:15
3. Allow _____ to _____ your view of others.

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most from this message, and why?

What does the idea that “mercy is better than fairness” stir up in you personally? Can you think of a time when you received mercy instead of what you “deserved”? How did that shape you?

Romans 9 challenges our assumptions about fairness and God's sovereignty. What part of Paul’s teaching in this chapter is hardest for you to accept or understand—and why?

Paul grieves deeply for those who have rejected the gospel. Do you carry a similar burden for anyone in your life who is far from God? How does Paul’s compassion challenge or encourage you?

In what ways has God’s mercy changed how you see other people—especially those who are difficult to love or different from you? Is there someone in your life right now who needs mercy from you more than judgment?

The Amish response to the school shooting was a radical picture of mercy. What do you think enabled them to show that kind of grace? What could help you grow in your ability to respond with mercy rather than fairness when you’re wronged?



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Applying Romans 9

1. Be humbled by God’s mercy. Rom 9:16; 1Tim 1:15
2. Let God be God. Rom 9:15; Matt 20:15
3. Allow mercy to shape your view of others.

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