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GRACE
CHANGES EVERYTHING



WEEK 3 | The Beautiful Collision: The Misconception

PRAYER

Father, thank you for your son, Jesus, who saves us so wondrously from our sin and ourselves. Let us never take this for granted, for our lives are only worth living when we embrace your undeserved gift of life, which can only be found in your son! We pray for more of your presence in our lives, in Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Apart from Jesus, who do you look to as an example as to the way you should live your life to the fullest, and why would you choose this person?

NOTES

WORD

¹ Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another, you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ² We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. ³ Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

⁶ He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.

¹² For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 2:1-16

There are two often misinterpretations from this part of Paul's letter to the Romans. Firstly, that we are not to judge; however, when in the context here, we see that the passage is advocating for judgment, but we must first see ourselves as sinners with a desperate need of a Saviour in Jesus. We can then help others discover this saving and fulfilment, which can only be found in Jesus.

The second misinterpretation is that we can find righteousness and be saved from sin by working our way out of it. However, Paul describes works as actions that “doers” do because they have heard the message of grace found in Jesus, and have therefore been justified in right standing with him (vs.13). The actions of a “hearer” are not qualifying for salvation, but are the fruit of salvation.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10, how do you rate your ability to resist being critical of others?
2. [Romans 2:11](#) says that “God shows no partiality.” Do you play favourites when it comes to the way you relate to your friends? How about your family? How do you feel when you are not the favourite?
3. How can [verse 13](#) be misinterpreted as describing how necessary works are for God's saving? How should it be read correctly in context? What does this mean for the way we should live?
4. Knowing that God's grace (that he has given his son, Jesus, to die for us and give us life), has given us all that we need to live life fully the way that he intended, would you say that you are living life the way God wants you to? If you are, share how this has been fulfilling for you. If not, what needs to change, and are you willing to make God-shaped changes in your life?
5. If you do not yet have a relationship with the God who saves us, and sets us free from trying to pointlessly work our way into righteousness, would you like to follow him and enter into a saving relationship with him through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.