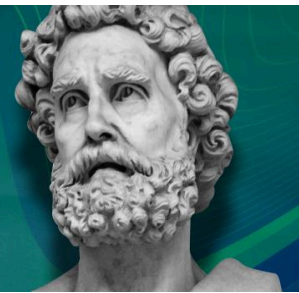




EPHESIANS

SIT, WALK, STAND



EPHESIANS | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Week #2)

GET STARTED

This weekend we talked about sitting in God's grace. Grace is one of the words that has multiple meanings in the English language. In Christianity, it means "the free and unmerited favor of God." However, in everyday conversation, it can also mean:

- "An act of kindness, courtesy or clemency" as to stay in someone's good graces.
- "Elegance and beauty" as you might describe a contestant in a pageant
- "A sense of propriety and consideration for others", to give someone a pardon
- "A short prayer" recited before or after a meal

Which of the four definitions above do you most commonly use the word "grace"? Which do you think is the most common way society uses the word "grace"? Do any of these common ways of using this word somehow take away from the importance of grace in our faith?

TAKE IT IN

What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week?

TALK IT OVER

- This weekend's sermon talked about the role guilt and shame might play in understanding our true identity in Christ and our place in the Kingdom. Perhaps you have been in the position to receive a gift you didn't really deserve, felt guilty about that, and thought you should give it back. **In which ways do we or can we sometimes give back the gift of grace that God has given us?**
- One way to look at the underserved gift of grace God has given us is to look at it like someone has gifted us a hot tub and won't take it back, even though we've done nothing to deserve an expensive gift like that. In that situation, there are stages you might go through:
 - 1) Out of guilt, that gift might go unused for a while
 - 2) You eventually sit in the tub and enjoy it
 - 3) You eventually enjoy it so much that you invite others to join you

If God's grace is like a hot tub you can "sit in" and enjoy, which of the three stages listed above might best describe your approach to this underserved gift?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

- This is a foundational passage to truly understand God's grace. It can be broken down into three sections:
 - (vs. 1-3) Explains our condition prior to knowing Christ. We were:
 - dead in our sins

- disobedient
 - living in the lust of our flesh
- (vs. 4-7) Explains why and how God saved us from our condition
 - God is rich in mercy and love
 - even though we were dead in our sins, by grace he made us alive
 - He seated us in heavenly places
 - and has surpassing riches for us in the ages to come
- (vs. 8-10) Gives a classic definition of grace
 - it is a gift from God
 - and not a result of our own works
 - and that we are his workmanship, created for good works

For you to truly understand grace, is it personally more important for you to understand your condition prior to knowing Jesus or more important to know why God decided to rescue you from your condition in the first place? What helps you understand and accept grace more?

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

- This passage talks about our citizenship in God's household with the foundation being established by the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus being the chief cornerstone. **In these turbulent times where we've seen people fall from grace after building their house and all they have on their own works and reputation and others having their physical dwellings being taken away by storms and floods, do you feel secure in God's household built on the solid foundation of Christ or do you still feel there is more you need to do to be truly secure?**

LIVE IT OUT

- In your prayer time this week, take some time to "sit" in the grace of God, as if you were sitting in a hot tub at the perfect temperature, with all the time in the world. Thank God for everything that grace means to you; the blessings in your life, your identity in Him, your citizenship in the Kingdom, and for your salvation. They say it takes 30 days to develop a habit, so do this every day during your prayer time for the next month!

Memorize:

"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace." **Romans 11:6**