

The Justice, Mercy, and Grace of God

Ephesians 2:1-10
October 26, 2025

Pastor Peter Chung

Ephesians 2:3-6 [Legacy Standard Bible]

³among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

⁴But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Sermon Outline

- I. God's Justice (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- II. God's Mercy (Ephesians 2:4)
- III. God's Grace (Ephesians 2:5-9)
- IV. God's Purpose in Extending Grace (2:10)

Ephesians 2:1-3 (LSB)

¹And you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,
³among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Dead Men Walking

1 Corinthians 15:22 (LSB)

²²For as in Adam all die...

Romans 3:23 (LSB)

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (LSB)

²³For the wages of sin is death...

Ephesians 2:1-3 (LSB)

¹And you **were dead** in your transgressions and sins,
²in which you **formerly walked** according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,
³among whom we all also **formerly conducted** ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.

The Justice of God

Isaiah 5:16 (LSB)

¹⁶But Yahweh of hosts will be lofty in judgment, And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness.

Deuteronomy 32:4 (LSB)

⁴"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.

Wayne Grudem

“God’s justice means that He always acts in accordance with what is right and is Himself the final standard of what is right.”

Ephesians 2:1-3 (LSB)

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²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,
³among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Ephesians 2:4 (LSB)

¹And you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,
³among whom we all also formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

⁴**But God**, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us,

The Mercy of God

Jonah 4:2 (LSB)

²And he prayed to Yahweh and said, "Ah! O Yahweh, was not this my word to myself while I was still in my own land? Therefore I went ahead to flee to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning evil.

Nahum 1:7 (LSB)

⁷Yahweh is good, A strong defense in the day of distress, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Ephesians 2:5-9 (LSB)

⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us **alive** together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

⁶and **raised us up with Him, and seated us** with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷so that in the ages to come He **might show the surpassing riches** of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

⁹not of works, so that no one may boast.

Luke 15:13-14 (LSB)

¹³“And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate living recklessly.

¹⁴“Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.

Luke 15:18-19 (LSB)

¹⁸‘I will rise up and go to my father, and will say to him,
“Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you.

¹⁹“I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as
one of your hired men.”’

Luke 15:20-24 (LSB)

²⁰“So he rose up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

²¹“And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²²“But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet,

²³and bring the fattened calf, slaughter it, and let us eat and celebrate,

²⁴**for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.**’ And they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:10 (LSB)

¹⁰“In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Ephesians 2:5-9 (LSB)

⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us **alive** together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

⁶and **raised us up with Him, and seated us** with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

⁷so that in the ages to come He **might show the surpassing riches** of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

⁹not of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:10 (LSB)

¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Luke 15:25-29 (LSB)

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶“And summoning one of the servants, he began inquiring what these things could be.

²⁷“And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.’

²⁸“But he became angry and was not wanting to go in, and his father came out and began pleading with him.

²⁹“But he answered and said to his father, ‘Look! For so many years I have been serving you and never have I neglected a command of yours. And yet never have you given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends.

Galatians 6:9-10 (LSB)

⁹And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

¹⁰So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.