

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.

Overview

Sermon: *Live by Grace*

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. – Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

In Ephesians 2 the Apostle Paul takes us from the valley of death to the mountaintop of life. The valley of death represents a person’s soul apart from Jesus. The mountaintop of life is the person who has been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Salvation can be described by some as simply wanting to “get closer to God.” This language, although sincere, falls short of what actually occurs when someone is granted salvation. Salvation is the incredible story of people being raised from death to a new life in Jesus. Salvation is the story, not of a person’s amazing efforts to reach up to God, but of God’s amazing grace in reaching down to save.

“It is by grace you have been saved.” Grace through faith completely changes how you live. In Jesus you are God’s masterpiece. Everything you do is out love of God and others. This love is born out of the amazing grace given to you through Jesus. Live by grace.

Discussion

1. How would you describe salvation by grace to someone who is hearing for the first time?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How does Paul describe a person’s life before Jesus? What do we learn about the spiritual state of the world? What does this teach you about a person’s need for salvation? What do we learn about powerlessness and hope?
3. How does Paul describe what happens to someone who believes? What attributes of God does Paul describe? How are these attributes essential for salvation?
4. How does Paul describe God’s level of activity in salvation? What’s ours? Why is salvation not based on effort? Who deserves the credit for salvation and why?
5. How is faith described in Ephesians 2:8? How is faith a gift from God? (See also; Acts 3:16, Phil 1:29, 1 Co 12:9, 2 Peter 1:1).

Application

6. How can you make steps to stop basing your relationship with God on your effort and instead live by grace through faith?
7. Living a life of love is choosing to live by grace. How can you live into being God’s handiwork/masterpiece this week (producing good works)?

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