

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now...

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

ROMANS 5:1-2

stand.

SESSION 1 •

How do we stand in grace?

story

Philip Yancey, in his book, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, says, "I would far rather convey grace than explain it."

Grace is hard to describe. We can attempt to define a human grace and divine grace. The human grace is something that you receive that means the world to you, but you don't deserve it. Divine grace is similar, but it is for everyone, and is something we will never fully understand or define, as Philip Yancey alludes to.

reflect

1. If you could have one supernatural resource from God, what would it be?



context

Jesus declared that we should have one distinguishing mark: not political correctness or moral superiority, but love. Philip Yancey

By striving to prove how much they deserve God's love, legalists miss the whole point of the gospel, that it is a gift from God to people who don't deserve it. The solution to sin is not to impose an ever-stricter code of behavior. It is to know God. Philip Yancey

God rejoices. Not because the problems of the world have been solved, not because all human pain and suffering have come to an end, nor because thousands of people have been converted and are now praising him for his goodness. No, God rejoices because one of his children who was lost has been found. Henri Nouwen

read + talk

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. **Romans 5:1-2**

1. In the 21st century, what is the definition of peace, both personally and globally?
2. A lot is written about grace, and it is spoken about in terms of 'unmerited favour with God,' or 'undeserved gift without earning.' How have you seen grace in the world around you?



Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

*For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. **Psalm 1***

1. What does it mean to take a stand for something?
2. What is the posture of a Christian? (e.g. stand and fight; sit back afraid because it is safer in our current culture not to share your opinion; roll over and take it?)
3. How has the current culture changed the idea of 'taking a stand'? (e.g. take a knee)



pray

- For peace in our world
- For understanding your free gift of grace
- For sharing our faith in an unbelieving world

bless

Bless each other with these words or make up your own.

May God give you peace and strengthen your faith in him.

notes