

Fan or Follower: Grace Changes Everything

Ephesians 2.1-5; Romans 4.1-5

April 30, 2017

How grace changes everything

† We went from spiritually dead to fully alive – as alive as the resurrected Jesus. That's what changed everything.

1. Grace changes your nature, not just your behavior.

† Christianity is not merely a "behavior" religion.

† Behavior is not the standard for Christianity. Belief is.

† You don't behave to become a Christian; you believe to become one.

† It wasn't our behavior that was first changed; it was our nature.

† But our new nature necessarily means new motives, new actions, new habits, new desires, and new behaviors. You don't get changed on the inside without ultimately getting changed on the outside.

2. Grace doesn't just focus on the forgiveness of sin, but on the justification of the sinner.

† When we encountered God's grace and believed, we got what we needed: we came into right standing with God.

- † God hears our prayers and allows us into heaven for one reason: we have been given the righteousness of Jesus!

- † If we've been given Jesus' perfect righteousness, what does that mean? It means it will come out of you!

- † This is the "So What?"
 - Do you let your politics inform your Christianity or do you let your Christianity inform your politics?
 - Do you make decisions based on "common sense" or what God clearly says?
 - Do minister, worship, and fellowship with other believers to the point of sacrifice or do you sacrifice ministry, worship, and fellowship with other believers on the altar of convenience?
 - Do you minister in the middle of your kid's sports or do you just get entertained?
 - When is the last time you told a lost person your Jesus story?
 - Do you see your D² small group as life to your bones or is it just a place to go when there's nothing else to do?
 - Is it easier to miss worship or work?