

Why Grace is Good News

read

Romans 8:1-4

think

When we're stuck at home together, it's so easy to sin against one another – desire for quiet can lead to impatience with someone else who has the TV up too high, and next thing you know there's World War III. (Please tell me it's not just me!) We want what we want, how we want it, when we want it. This is our sinful nature, and you've probably seen it in your home lately too.

The gospel is a message of grace. It's good news that there is "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." It's good news because we all know we stand guilty before a Holy God. It's good news because we don't need to stand guilty... if we are "in Christ" then we stand with no condemnation. Rather than living with the shackles of guilt and shame, Christians live with freedom because we have been "set free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

In this crazy world that separates the "haves" and the "have-nots" and where the "winners" and "losers" are marked by their GPA, wealth, social media followers, and other measurements of importance, the gospel declares grace for sinners. It's good news for all of us – because we have been justified ("declared righteous") by the grace of God. This is why we can live with hope, even when graduation, sports, and prom have been cancelled. God's grace meets us in the midst of our need, and it has a name: Jesus Christ!

apply

- "Justified" is a big word that means "to be declared righteous." Where can you think about that happening to someone in the Bible?
- When you think about meeting God, what do you think he'll say to you?
- How would it change your attitude and mindset if you live the rest of the day remembering there is "no condemnation" and that you have been "set free from the law of sin and death" because of Jesus Christ?

pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, as my substitute on the cross so I could receive "no condemnation." Thank you for taking my judgment so I could live with freedom and hope. Help me to remember your grace with my head, heart, and hands.

by Mike McGarry

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