

LifeGroups

“The Difference”

Part 2

Romans 3:21-4:5

For the four weeks after Easter we are taking a break from our study of Mark's gospel and focusing on the difference Jesus makes to the world and in our lives. These four weeks provide a great connection point for people who are new to Christianity or who have not yet made a faith commitment to Jesus. Use this sermon discussion guide with your Life Group, your family, or in your private devotions to study the Bible and reflect on the Sunday sermon.

This week's main point: *It was the Beatles who popularized the adage, "All You Need Is Love." Without doubt, the world would be a better place if people were more loving to one another. In reality, however, it would be more accurate to say, "All You Need Is Righteousness." The question that has plagued human beings since Adam fell into sin is "How can a man be righteous before God?" (Job 25:4). In this week's text, the apostle Paul supplies the answer to that question: "through faith in Jesus Christ alone." The passage we are studying this week is pivotal to the gospel. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But God has provided a way to be justified--declared and accepted as righteous before God--not by works but by grace. And this righteousness is received--imputed to our account--through childlike, helpless, dependent faith in the finished work of Christ.*

Share

Talk about someone you consider to be your hero, role model, or outstanding example of faith and devotion to God.

Study

1. ***Read Romans 3:21-4:5.***

2. *What stands out to you in this passage of God's Word? What questions immediately come to your mind? Does anything surprise you?*

3. *Define "righteousness" as it is used in this passage.*

4. *Why do all persons need righteousness?*

5. *What did Abraham discover about the way to be considered righteous by God? (For background, read Genesis 15.)*

See Jesus

1. Define the following words that Paul uses in this passage:

- *law*
- *faith*
- *justified*
- *redemption*
- *propitiation*
- *works of the law*

2. What was the great exchange that happened on the cross?

3. Is it possible to be justified by works? Why or why not?

4. How does this passage give you insight into why Jesus came?

Send

1. What is the good news of this passage? How might you communicate it to a non-Christian without using the theological terms Paul does?

2. *In the Bible, believing in Jesus means more than merely giving intellectual assent to certain propositions. It is better seen as totally relying on Jesus, trusting that what he did on the cross was done for you, and committing your life into his hands, come what may. In that light, have you put your faith in Jesus, or have you been trusting in other things (e.g., being good, working hard, providing for your family, going to church, etc.) for approval by God and man? Is this a matter you should talk over with a Christian friend or pastor?*

Supplicate

- ◆ *Pray that God will make us faithful to follow up with friends who visited UPC on Easter Sunday.*
- ◆ *Pray for "A Praying Life" seminar coming up this weekend, that it will equip many people to have a more satisfying, consistent prayer life.*
- ◆ *Pray for Pastor Matt's four-week sermon series. Ask God to prepare the hearts of members and guests alike to experience gospel transformation through it.*
- ◆ *Pray for our church of the week: Friends Community Church*
- ◆ *Pray for our missionaries of the week: Chipper & Kristen Flaniken*
- ◆ *Pray for our unreached people group of the week: Bozo-Hain of Mali*