

GRACE: THE TRUTH THAT TRANSFORMS

WHY EVERYONE NEEDS GRACE (Romans 3:1-20) Talk-it-Over Notes | March 14-15, 2026

REVIEW IT

We need the book of Romans because we need the gospel. Everyone needs the gospel: The rebellious, the respectable self-righteous, and the religious. Paul concludes his argument that every person—religious or not—is guilty before God and in need of salvation. Using a courtroom metaphor, Paul anticipates and answers five questions:

1. Uniqueness: Is there any advantage in being Jewish?
Response: Yes, chiefly because Jews were entrusted with God's Word.
2. Faithfulness: Does Jewish unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness?
Response: God keeps His promises regardless of human failure.
3. Righteousness: If our sin highlights God's righteousness, is God unfair to judge us?
Response: No, God's standards are just; our sin doesn't excuse us.
4. Truthfulness: If our falsehood enhances God's glory, why are we judged?
Response: That logic is faulty—grace is not a license to sin.
5. Man's sinfulness: Is anyone better off than anyone else?
Response: No, all are under sin's power and need salvation.

Paul supports his case with Old Testament quotes, showing everyone's character and conduct are corrupt because of sin. ("there is no one righteous"). The law reveals our sinfulness but cannot save us; its purpose is to point us to Christ. **The verdict:** Everyone stands guilty & needs God's grace through Jesus to be saved.

Spend some time in the word: Read Romans 3:1-20

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What stood out to you most from today's message about our universal need for God's grace?
2. Given that "no one is righteous," In what ways do people today try to justify themselves before God? How do these efforts fall short?
3. Why is it important to recognize our guilt before God before we can truly appreciate the good news of the gospel?
4. What role does God's law play in leading us to Christ, according to Romans 3:1-20?

ACT ON IT

Romans 3:14 brings up our mouths. Choose one of these three verses to memorize this week. Share with the group which one you chose. *"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."* —Psalm 19:14.

"Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut." — Proverbs 10:19.

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." — Ephesians 4:29

PRAY ABOUT IT

Take time to ask how you can pray for and support one another in prayer. Then, close in prayer.