

Life Group Homework

For the week of October 14, 2018

“Therefore, since we have been justified (made right) through *faith*, we have *peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through 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 NIV)

- My **PEACE** with God is based on the forgiveness Jesus offers me.

“Don’t you know that when you *offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves*, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, *or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?*” (Romans 6:16 NIV)

- A bondservant is one who **serves** of their own free will.

BUT none of us are perfect!

- “...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23 NIV)

The deception: God cannot or will not forgive me.

Truth: “Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—*it is by grace you have been saved...* ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:3–9 NIV)

- We didn’t deserve it the **first** time we received it, nor the **next** time.

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. ¹⁰For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.” (Romans 5:8–11 NIV)

Challenge:

- TRUST Him. Then stand firm.
- Do I continue to offer myself to Him as a BONDSERVANT?

MY STORY

1. What is one thing you love that your group might not know about you?
2. What was your takeaway from last week’s study?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday’s teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Ephesians 6:10-16 (ESV)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

4. What is the purpose of a breastplate?
5. What does righteousness mean?
6. Whose righteousness is the breastplate?
7. The belt on a Roman soldier held the breastplate in place so that the soldier could move freely without the breastplate sliding on the body. How do truth and righteousness work together in our lives?

Romans 4:1-3 (NLT)

Abraham was, *humanly speaking*, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? ²If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God’s way. ³For the Scriptures tell us, “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.

8. What was counted to Abraham because of his faith?
9. How are faith and righteousness connected?

10. In the intro video Pastor Craig talked about the lies we believe regarding righteousness. What stood out to you?

TAKING IT HOME

Let's shift now to the shoes of the gospel of peace.

11. If you had to summarize it in two sentences or less, what is the gospel?
12. How does the gospel bring us peace?
13. Why would the shoes be the part of the armor that Paul equates to peace?
14. What are the intended purpose of shoes?

Roman soldiers' shoes were studded on the bottom so that they would have better traction. It's similar to baseball or football cleats. They help the wearer not to slip and fall during the game. In this passage the shoes of peace help us stand firm in the good news of salvation.

15. How do truth, God's righteousness, and peace work together?

We will discuss the shield of faith next week.

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read Ephesians Chapter 6 and think about the following questions.

16. What does God's righteousness look like in your life?
17. How does the gospel of Jesus bring me peace?

Think about *The 916 Campaign* and pray for the following people that come to mind.

18. Who of my neighbors can I pray for?
19. Who can I share the gospel with?

FAMILY RESOURCES

20. How can God's righteousness help us as we parent our kids?
21. How would knowing and trusting God's peace help us with our patience with our children?

CHOSEN

TO LIVE STRONG

LEARNING HOW TO WIN LIFE'S BATTLES

October 14, 2018 | PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

Hebrews 6:1 *"So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God."*

The deception: God cannot or will not forgive me.

Truth: He has, He does and He will.

OUR GOAL! "...able to stand firm..."

(Every bit of ground that we have freely given to God)

One BIG THOUGHT: We have a lot to lose.

Text: Romans 3:21–26

"But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, ^m through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. ...²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

- We are made right with God by faith in Jesus being the sacrifice for our sins.

"Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed..." (Romans 4:18 NIV)

- Abraham made a choice based on HOPE.

"...being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. (resulted in Trust/faith ²² This is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.'"

(Romans 4:21–22 NIV)

- His heart was persuaded and he acted on it.