



# CAPTURED BY GRACE

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Week 3 - Dirty vs. Righteous

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## Introduction:

Q: Are you one hundred percent, completely righteous?  
Righteousness – “Goodness that is good enough for God.”  
(P. Bill Giovannetti)

## The Truth About Righteousness

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ in the salvation package

Romans 3:21-24

2. It is \_\_\_\_\_ through the cross

“To Impute” means to “charge something to someone’s account.”

3. It is \_\_\_\_\_ through the resurrection

Galatians 5:17 – The flesh is with you, but it is not you!

Genesis 4:7b – Sin...desires to have you, but you must rule over it.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – we’re not only declared righteous, we’ve *become* righteous!

## Application:

God has quite literally “rigged the system” in our favor. God not only imputed His righteousness to your account, but He has imparted His righteousness to your character. As a new creation, you now have the capacity to walk in alignment with the Spirit of Christ...a capacity you once did not have! Discipleship is not about following good advice. It’s about living the Gospel life...in community, humility and reliance upon the Spirit’s power.

You cannot and will not truly live with righteous behavior if you’re not fully believing that you ARE the righteousness of God! Our core beliefs precede our behavior.

## **QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

### **Personal Life:**

1. As you look at the trajectory of your growth into Christlike maturity, what have been some of the roadblocks to truly believing that you've actually, literally been changed at the core, into alignment with Christ's character?

### **Ponderings:**

2. The flesh is always leading us into either obvious sins of rebellion, or more subtle sins of religion (i.e. self-righteousness). Which of these, do you believe, is a greater threat to the mission of Christ's church in today's world? Discuss...
3. What is the difference between the old "sinful nature" (that has been crucified with Christ already), and the "flesh" (the old patterns, strategies and coping mechanisms rooted in self-reliance)? Discuss...
4. Given that the flesh is "with us" but is "not us," how does this help us understand how we can be both totally righteous AND still struggle with sin? Discuss...
5. Of the three major ideas shared in the weekend message, which in your opinion is most useful or practical in your day-to-day life?
  - God's righteousness being "included" as a free gift of salvation
  - God righteousness being "imputed" (credited) to your account
  - God's righteousness being "imparted" to the core of your character

### **Promptings:**

6. What are some of the most obvious ways in which a disciple lives differently from the world? (Think about more than just outward behaviors to include attitudes and mind-sets).

How are you personally maturing in one or more of these evidences of God's fruit in your life? Discuss...