

# FROM WRONG TO RIGHT

**W**e are justified by grace through faith!" According to Paul, this is really important to know. So important that he says it over and over.

"We are justified by grace through faith!"

Great. *But what does it mean? What is "justified"? What is "grace"? And what is "faith"?* Let's dive in and see if we can figure out why Paul says this is so important!

To **JUSTIFY** someone is to say that what the person has done is good and right. No need for punishment—what the person has done is the right thing to do!

Imagine if someone wants to put you in jail because you walked out of a store with a bunch of bananas. "You **STOLE** those bananas!" they yell. "Put her in jail!" They put a sticker on you that says, "**WRONG!**"



But then the owner of the store runs out and says, "No, she paid for the bananas! It is **RIGHT** for her to take them home!" The storeowner takes off the "**WRONG**" label and puts on another sticker that says, "**RIGHT.**"

Now you have been **JUSTIFIED**. You are not a banana thief. The storeowner said that what you did was right.

*Get it?*

**G**race is a word that means “undeserved favor.” Favor means kindness. So, grace, or “undeserved favor,” means you have been given a kindness—a gift—that you didn’t earn.

*If your neighbor gives you ten dollars after you mow her yard, have you earned that money?*

Yes. You mowed the yard. You earned the money.

*But what if you don’t mow the yard, and your neighbor gives you ten dollars anyway, just because she likes you? Now did you earn the money?*



Nope. You didn’t **EARN** the money. The ten dollars was a **GIFT** you didn’t earn.

And that’s what **GRACE** is. A gift you didn’t earn.

*What is the gift Paul talked about that we haven’t earned?*

Well, it’s much better than ten dollars. The gift we haven’t earned is **FRIENDSHIP** with God. It’s the forever-kind-of-life with Jesus, in a world without sadness and sickness—a world made **RIGHT**!



Remember, sin keeps us **AWAY** from God. When we ignore God and do whatever we want to do—like when we put ourselves first instead of putting other people first—we break our friendship with God. We can’t have the forever-kind-of-life with Jesus.

To be friends with God again, we need to have our labels changed from “wrong” to “right.” From “enemy of God” to “friend of God.”

But we can’t change our own labels. That’s why Jesus came. That’s why He died on the cross. **JESUS** took our labels that said **WRONG**, and put them on Himself, even though He hadn’t done anything wrong. Then He took His own label that said **RIGHT**, and put it on us. Jesus justified us!



**W**e are justified by grace through faith.”  
What’s faith? It’s simple. **FAITH** is trusting that Jesus can do what He says He can do. Faith is **BELIEVING** the good news about Jesus and the forever-kind-of-life we can have with Him.

Our labels are changed from “wrong” to “right,” even though we didn’t earn it, because we have faith in Jesus and trust Him with our lives.

To Paul, **NOTHING** was more important than this!

# JUSTIFIED



## FROM WRONG TO RIGHT FAMILY CONNECTION

EPHESIANS 2:1-10



### EVERYDAY TRUTH

Because of Jesus,  
I can be a friend of God!

### TALK

What does *grace* mean?

How does Jesus change our “labels?”

Dear  
God . . .

### PRAY

Dear God, becoming Your friend is an amazing gift that we could never earn. Thank You for inviting us into the forever-kind-of-life with You! Amen.



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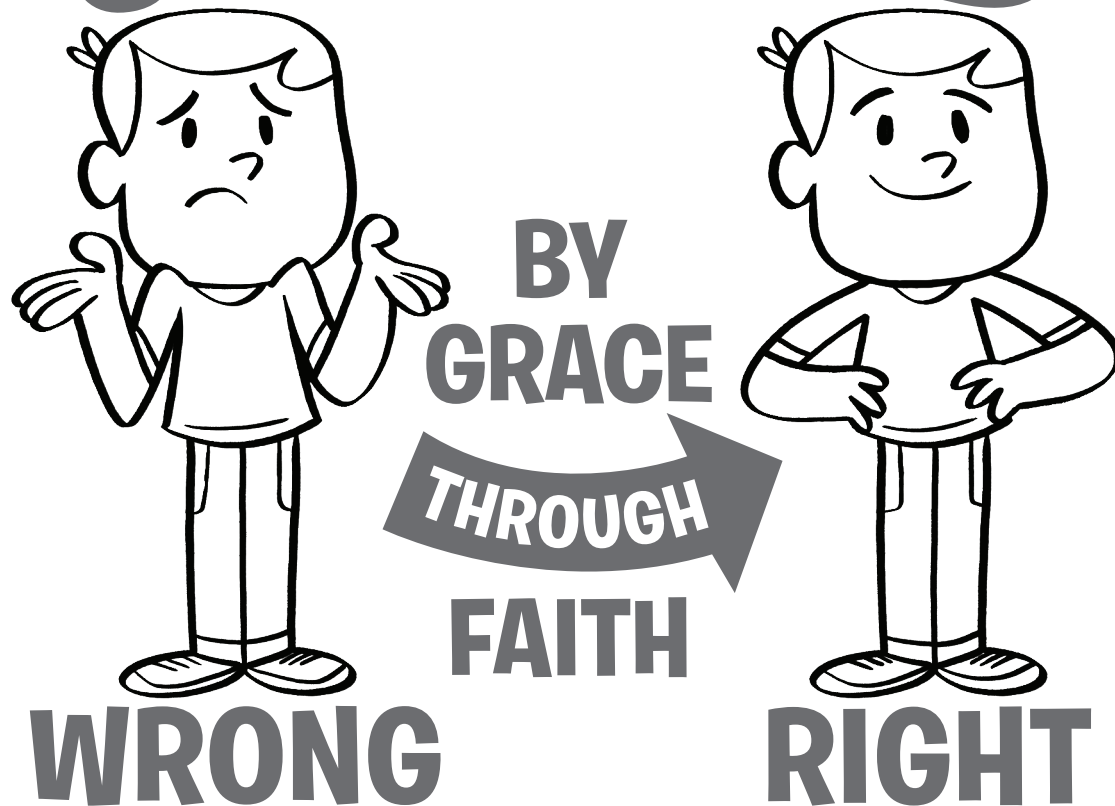


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