

# The Radical Nature of Grace

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 3:9ff, 4:4ff.

B. Most people consider themselves to be good.

## II. Becoming a Christian involves declaring permanent spiritual bankruptcy.

A. Most people actually declare temporary spiritual bankruptcy. Once they clean up their lives and practice some spiritual disciplines, they start to rely on their own performance to please God and earn His blessings.

B. God counts us righteous apart from our performance on any particular day. (Romans 4:4ff)

1. When we think His blessing is dependent on our performance, we daily operate on a basis of guilt.

2. The two greatest obstacles to holiness are self-righteousness and guilt.

3. Nothing that you do or don't do will ever cause God to love you more or less. Jesus' merit is what earned God's blessings. (Ephesians 1:3, John 15:5, Philippians 4:19)

a) We are organically united to Christ.

b) This union is what brings us God's blessings.

c) No amount of our own merit could earn God's blessings.

d) We need to stop trusting ourselves for God's blessing and rely solely on Jesus' merit. (1 Corinthians 13)

## Application questions:

1. As you look at the attitude with which you ask God for His blessings, do you see guilt? What fuels your every day relationship with God- your own merit or Christ's?

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2. What does it mean practically to stop trusting in your merit in your relationship with God?

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3. What mistakes make you feel like God won't bless you? How can you have faith that God loves you the same at all times regardless of behavior?

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