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A COMMUNITY FOSTERING: GRACE - NOVEMBER 8th, 2026

Ephesians 2:1-10 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

A COMMUNITY FOSTERING CHRIST-LIKE GRACE, GROWTH, AND COMPASSION

Grace Always Comes First - Before we ever reached for God, God had already reached for us.

Grace Clears the Table - It removes the "earning" from the table.

Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9 "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.... For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast."

We are recovering earners.

Why the Church Has to Get This Right First

A church that doesn't know "it is by grace" we will quietly turn into a place where people have to earn their seat. If we get grace wrong, our mission is difficult and inconsistent, no matter how many programs we build.

Allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in you.

1) Catch yourself trying to earn God's approval.

2) Catch yourself making somebody else earn your grace.

Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people."