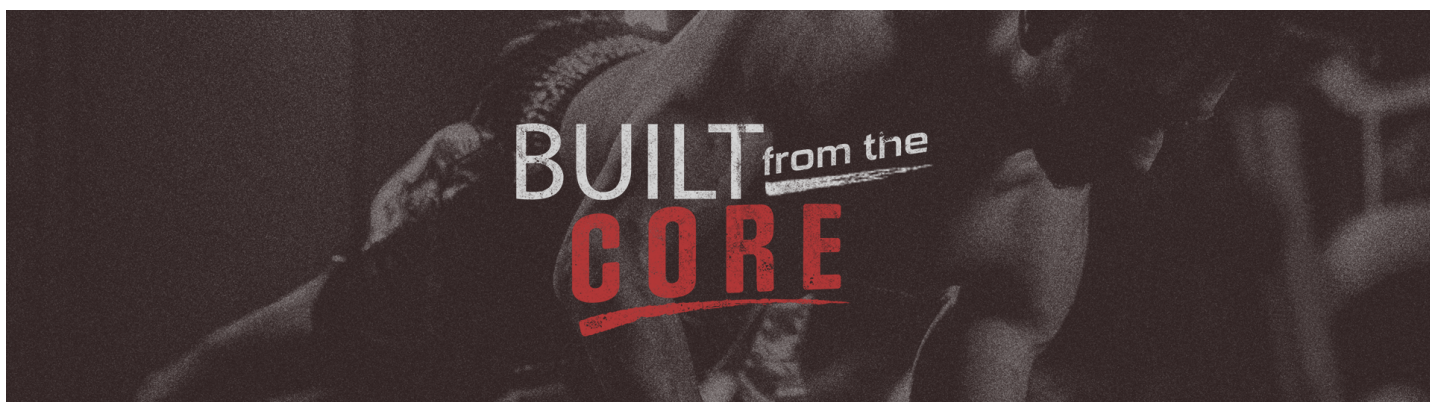




Built from the Core // Part 3

Introduction:

This week Chance continues a new series called '**Built From The Core**' with the message for **Week 3: Jesus Changes Everything**. Do you know what the Core of Grace Community Church is, why it's important and why it matters?

As we continue to look at our Core Beliefs, the second is '**Salvation by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Christ alone**'. What does that mean, and why does Jesus change everything about our understanding of who God is? As we look at Scripture from the Book of Ephesians, it's important to know that Paul is writing to people in Ephesus where there were many pagan gods with different requirements to appease and gain their favor. It's into that context that Paul is speaking about who God is!

Questions:

1. Do you believe that you still need to do something to earn God's salvation? Why is that a common struggle for believers in Jesus?
2. What does it mean that 'God doesn't want something from you, He wants something for you'? Is that different from what our culture desires from God? How does that modify your perspective of who God is?
3. What realization is required for the Good News to be truly good? Is it hard to admit how truly evil your sin is, that by your very nature you were subject to God's wrath and anger? Do you forget where you came from before you were saved? **Ephesians 2:1-3**

4. Why is Paul's 'But God...' statement vitally important? In what way is God's rich abundance and mercy demonstrated by Jesus Christ and His love? What is it that saved you? **Ephesians 2:4-5**
5. How big a difference does it make that Jesus didn't come to move you from 'bad to 'good', but to move you from 'dead' to 'alive'? What does this make clear that you can't do for yourself? Why is it important that you were 'dead'? **Ephesians 2:6**
6. Do you believe that you can ever take any credit for your salvation? Do you feel like your life has merit or deserves some reward? Is it hard to accept that salvation is not something that you can earn, but it's something that has to be believed by faith alone? Do you agree that you need this reminder of who you were and what God has done for you? **Ephesians 2:7-9**
7. What if the key to Christianity is not about trying harder, but it's trusting completely in Christ and then being ready to do the 'good things' He has planned for you? **Ephesians 2:10**

Key takeaway: *You are God's masterpiece, there is nothing you can do to earn salvation. God has saved you for good works that He has planned for you.*

Summary:

- We don't earn God's love, we receive it through Jesus, the only thing we contribute to our salvation is the sin that makes it necessary
- God doesn't want something from you, He wants something for you
- The Good News is only good when you realize how evil, sinful, and lost you are without Christ; Sin = trespass, means crossed the boundaries God set
- But God..." totally God's doing to reconcile broken & flawed men to Himself
- Jesus didn't come to move us from bad to good. No he came to move us from dead to alive
- Salvation is nothing that we've earned, but it is something that has to be believed by faith
- Christianity is not trying harder, it's about trusting Christ