



## UNFAIR, UNCOMFORTABLE, AND IRRESISTIBLE

Romans 5:1-8

## study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



### INTRODUCTION

"Christianity is so narrow, intolerant, and unfair." That is often the way the "religion of Christianity" is portrayed today.

But what if that's just misdirection? In the New Testament Paul wrote, in effect, that the person and work of Jesus Christ actually goes way beyond fairness. What he did is in an entirely different category. No wonder we can't fit faith in him into our expected, comfortable, cultural expectations.

Christians today must realize, at a daily level of sensitivity, what God did for us in Jesus, even though we were completely oblivious to our problem. When we do, God will use that realization to transform how we think of ourselves, how we treat others, and how we answer questions about our faith. It may require, losing the "religion" part of being a Christian, and embracing the relationship and peace with God he has given with a new vigor and gratitude.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever come across someone asking about (or have you ever pondered yourself) how exclusively and narrowly Jesus talks about salvation (Matt. 7: 13-14; John 14:6)? What's your explanation?
2. In the message, Dwain said, "Fairness is overrated." Do you think that's true? How would you push back on that statement? Are there scriptures that come to mind that inform how you think about the fairness, or not, of your faith?
3. **Read Romans 5:1-8 together.**
  - a. Do you think it's true that we tend to severely underestimate the significance of sin and the brokenness of our world? How can that affect our view of God?
  - b. The little Greek word "boast" in **v. 2** means to "celebrate or shout loudly." What do you think it means to "boast in the hope of the glory of God?"
  - c. In light of **v. 6-8**, how would you describe Jesus' narrowness claims? Unfair? Uncomfortable? A relief? etc.
  - d. Can you think of other NT passages that confirm **v. 8**? What do they say about the gospel we believe and what we are to "boast" about?
4. Is there someone you need to share Jesus with, who thinks that your faith is too narrow and intolerant? How about a nominal "Christian" friend who may think the same way? How can your group pray with you as you ask Jesus to help you know how and when to share the irresistibly true message of Jesus with them?

### MOVING FORWARD

It is incredibly freeing to know that as a Jesus-follower, you are believing in and relating to a God who not only has your back – he had it even when you didn't know that you needed somebody watching out for you – but desires to transform your life into the kind of living you've always longed for but thought was impossible. That's not unfair.... that's beyond fair!

Would you be willing to make a commitment to being here the next five weekends (until Easter) as your church shares together what this all means practically, and what could happen if every follower of Jesus truly took it to heart?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

**"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8**