

---

**God's New Humanity:  
"The Grammar of Grace"**  
Ephesians 2: 1-10

---

***Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:***

"Sin is a breach of trust, the illicit reach of unbelief, an assertion of autonomy." - Bruce Waltke

"Grace doesn't sell well; you can hardly even give it away, because it works only for losers and no one wants to stand in their line." - Robert Farrar Capon

"Come with thy heart hard, dead, cold, full of wickedness; come as a blood-red sinner; this is the way to come to Christ!" - John Bunyan

"When God pardons, he does not say he understands our weakness or makes allowances for our errors; rather he disposes of, he finishes with, the whole of our dead life and raises us up with a new one. He does not so much deal with our derelictions as he does drop them down the black hole of Jesus' death. He forgets our sins in the darkness of the tomb. He remembers our iniquities no more in the oblivion of Jesus' expiration. He finds us, in short, in the desert of death, not in the garden of improvement; and in the power of Jesus' resurrection, he puts us on his shoulders rejoicing and brings us home . . . The work of redemption is done entirely by the redeemer, and not at all by the redeemed." - Robert Farrar Capon

***Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:***

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- What do you make of Robert Capon's thoughts in the quotations above?
  - Why doesn't grace "sell well"? Is there anyone for whom grace does seem like a treasure?
  - What is the aversion to and cost for standing in the losers' line?
  - Why is grace not merely allowance for weakness and errors?
  - What is effect of the image he contrasts between the "garden of improvement" and the "desert of death"?
- What is the "grammar of grace"? Where does it show up in this passage?
  - Can you think of other places in the Scriptures where the same language is employed?
  - Is it just language, or does these particular words have a bearing on reality for you and others?
- What does the image of being God's workmanship, his masterpiece, stir in you?
  - Is this the baseline assumption of your life?
  - What stands in the way and competes for embracing this view and experience of yourself?
- The perennial push-pull of the Christian life is living by faith and working out our salvation - faith vs. works.
  - How does this passage help you navigate and live in that tension?