



Part 4
The Lie: God Grades on a Curve
Pastor Grant Fishbook
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The Lie:

God grades on a curve.

As long as you're nice, you're fine.

The Lie about God and Nice People

- As long as we are sincere, it counts
- As long as our good outweighs our bad, we're good!
- A loving God would never send anyone to hell
- Only a narrow-minded Bible-thumper would say that Jesus is the only way

The Truth about God and Nice People

- Sincerity can never turn a lie into the truth

For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. – *Romans 10:2-3*

- All of our good is not good enough

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. – *Isaiah 64:6*

What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." – *Romans 3:9-12*

- God never sends anyone to hell – the choice is up to you

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." – *John 5:24*

Love without justice is enabling

Justice without love is brutal punishment

Love with justice and justice with love is mercy

- Jesus said that He is the only way (*John 14:6*)

If there is another way, Jesus died for nothing (*Galatians 2:21*)

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A Tough and Beautiful Reality (*Romans 6:23*)

- **Sin kills** For the wages of sin is death...

BUT

- **Jesus saves** ...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. – *Hebrews 9:27-28*

What's at stake if you buy the lie?

Your eternal life

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." – *Matthew 7:13-14*

Next Steps

Alpha: A Practical Introduction to Christianity

Monday Nights, 5:45-8:00 PM

Sign up today at the Connection Point

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) Who is the nicest person you know? What makes that person so nice?
- 2) Have you ever heard the lie "God grades on a curve" expressed in another way?
- 3) Are you offended by the statement, "There is no one righteous, not even one?" What do people use to justify themselves as a good people?
- 4) If our good does not count for anything (Isaiah 64) why should we continue pursuing good deeds? Can you find any scriptures that speak about good deeds? What good deed are you pursuing this week?
- 5) How can a person "do life" on the narrow road? What are the biggest spiritual challenges on the narrow road?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?