

Theme: Despite the catastrophic effects of the fall, God continues to be gracious and has provided various ways of restraining the effects of the curse so that it does not destroy everything.

I. Intro – Why Is Life Still Good?

- A. We discussed the fall – terrible effects of sin
- B. Why is the earth still so productive?
- C. Why can unbelievers make great art, music?
- D. Why do people still desire to develop creation?
- E. Why hasn't sin destroyed everything?
- F. Common Grace – answer; define

II. Common Grace – Restraining Sin

- A. Common grace restrains sin in mankind
 - 1. Rom 2:14-15 – do law by nature
 - 2. This is part of common grace - not salvation
 - 3. Total depravity – every part; not every possible sin
- B. Means of God's common grace
 - 1. General revelation – Rom 1:19-20
 - 2. Conscience – Romans 2:14-15
 - 3. Civil government – Romans 13:1-4

III. Common Grace – Enabling Blessing

- A. Common grace showers blessings on humanity
 - 1. Matthew 5:44-45 – God is kind to all
 - 2. Ps 145:9, 15-16 – God satisfies needs of all
 - 3. Acts 14:17 – God gives rain, food and joy
 - 4. This is why creation still produces, life is good
- B. Common grace allows humanity to partially fulfill our call
 - 1. Still called to rule/develop – Gen 9:1-2; 7;8-10; (Ps 8)
 - 2. Common grace touches all human life/culture
 - i. Physical (don't die immediately; food; healing)
 - ii. Intellectual (think, reason, understand; science)
 - iii. Moral (don't always sin; compassion; truth)
 - iv. Creative (art, music, craftsmanship)
 - v. Societal (relationships; government; economic)
 - vi. Care and compassion (humans and planet)

IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do we see the blessing of common grace?
 - 1. Without common grace no blessings

2. Without common grace we would destroy ourselves
- B. Do we see that common grace is available to all?
1. This is why unbelievers can be so gifted
 2. Why we can work with unbelievers to do good
 3. All can still partially fulfill God's call for humanity
- C. Do we see the limits of common grace?
1. Does not change the heart – evil still rules
 2. Can not save – all work still polluted
- D. Responding to common grace
1. Be thankful – God is kind to us
 2. Recognize we need more – Jesus!
 3. Be kind to others – this is how God is

Common Grace: Restraining the Effects of the Fall

Matthew 5:43-45; Romans 2:14-15

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?? You're So Good To Me ??

Numbers 6

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Common grace refers to the aspect of God's grace that restrains sin and its effects, gives general blessings to humanity and creation so that they can partially fulfill God's original design for them, but is not part of salvation itself.

19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20

1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. 4 For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:1-4

The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made... 15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. 16 You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Ps 145:9, 15-16

17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Acts 14:17

1 Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. 2 The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. Genesis 9:1-2

7 As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it." Genesis 9:7

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 9 "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 10 and with every living creature that was with you-- the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-- every living creature on earth. Genesis 9:8-10

Psalm 8

3. Common grace touches all human life/culture

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