



09 February 2024

You are not good enough

We have heard it, felt that way, said to ourselves,

“You are not good enough.” “I am not good enough.”

It starts early in life on the playground, in the schoolroom, and even in the home. You may be good, but not good enough to make the team, to get the musical or theater parts you want, to be in the special group.



Some of us take this on through the different areas and stages of life. “I’m not talented or smart enough.” “I’m not a good enough husband/wife/father/mother.” “I’m not good enough to get the job I really want.”

We may look at people who are more than good enough in some areas and wish we could be where they are. The Super Bowl is this Sunday. One of the key players on the San Francisco 49ers’ described their defensive play in the second half of the season as “Not good enough. Not good enough at all.” Good enough to make the championship game, but not good enough.

Even if we can deal with all the real, sensitive and even traumatic history of disappointments and hurts from not being as good as others, or from what we think we should be, no matter how hard we try none of us are good enough. Not one of us.

The Bible tells us that because we were born with a sinful nature and sin, not one of us is good enough to be accepted by God and have life forever with Him, no matter how smart, talented or disciplined we are.

Jesus said, “No one is good except God alone” (Mark 10:18).

“There is no righteous person, not even one” (Romans 3:10).

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

“By the works of the Law none of mankind will be justified in His [God’s] sight; for through the Law comes knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20).

“All of our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment” (Isaiah 64:6).

Not one of us is good enough, can become good enough on our own.



The good news, we know, is that God the Son, Jesus Christ came into the world as one of us, died on the cross to pay our sin debt. So, by God's grace when we place our faith in Him, He makes us *good enough*, He forgives all our sins and gives us the righteousness of Christ.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-7).

God also has made everyone who has accepted Christ as Savior *good enough* to defeat sin, grow in being more like Christ and be an instrument of God accomplishing His work which counts for eternity. That is, He prepares us, leads us, and gives us His power to do that.

"For we are His [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

"Not that we are adequate in ourselves so as to consider anything as having come from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant" (2 Corinthians 3:5-6a).

The apostle Paul testified, "And He [God] has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

And again, "I can do all things through Him [Christ] who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

However you feel about yourself today, or whatever your circumstances are, if Christ is your Savior, know that you stand righteous before God in Christ and He will lead and enable you to accomplish the things He has prepared for you.

Pastor Lyle