



**SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, 02/18/2022**

**Scripture: James 2:5**

**TITLE: Scandalous Grace**

A number of years ago, my wife and I were invited to a fancy restaurant for a special occasion. Now, we couldn't afford the meal. We were really poor. But our friends wanted us to be part of their special night, so we were their guests. No guilt. No strange treatment. We were simply part of the group with no discrimination.

You know, this is exactly what God does for us? Listen to James 2:5 (CSB) as he continues his teaching on impartiality.

[Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Didn't God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?](#)

The past couple of days, we've been talking about impartiality and favoritism. In the Kingdom of God, God has no favorite. Yes, those saved become God's children. And once there, God doesn't begin to rank us. You see, Pastor Nat is no greater than you or anyone else. I am a wretched sinner saved by the grace of God.

You've heard me quote it a lot, but Ephesians 2 is one of my favorite passages in all of Scripture. Ephesians 2:10 declares that we are God's masterpiece. All of us. He doesn't say, "You, John, you are a cup made of Play-Doh, but Jenny, you are a Rembrandt." No, we are all a work of art.

You see, God's Kingdom is upside down. The poor are rich. The rich are humbled. The weak are strong. The strong are made dependent upon God. This is the scandalous power and nature of grace. God doesn't care who you are, what you've done, or what you have. He cares about you and your relationship with Him.

I remember reading a book about the power of commonality. It shared how smokers present a special peek into this. Because at the back of the hotel you can find the dishwasher, the bellhop, the manager, and the CEO brought together by this habit called smoking. Well, by God's grace, we have a much healthier and great bond, and that is Christ.

So here's my challenge for you today: Invite others in. It's time to strengthen your bond with your local body of Christ. I love a diverse church. I love a church full of young and old, rich and poor, multi-colored and multi-talented. And it all begins with you living out this by inviting others in.

When we throw open our lives to people of all shapes, sizes, and backgrounds, the church is magnified, and Jesus wins the day.