

Is God Unjust?

ROMANS 9:14-29

Sunday, September 20, 2026 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

God is not **UNJUST** — he shows **MERCY** freely, (v. 14-18)

 **melts the wax** Eph 2:4–5; Titus 3:5; John 15:16; Acts 13:48; Ezek 36:26

hardens the clay Prov 21:1; Rom 1:24; Exod 4:21; 8:15; 9:12; 14:17

patiently shapes **HIS** creation as he wills, (v. 19-24)

who do you think *you* are? Isa 45:9; Job 38:4; Isa 55:8–9; 1 Cor 1:25; Ps 100:3

he’s patient, not passive Rom 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9; Exod 34:6; Nah 1:3; Hab 2:3

and turns ‘**NOT MY PEOPLE**’ into his people. (v. 25-29)

‘my people’ — *really?* 1 Pet 2:10; Eph 2:12–13; 1 John 3:1; Eph 1:5; John 1:12

 **some, not none** Rom 11:5–6; Zeph 3:12–13; Jer 23:3; Rev 7:9

We are **sent** to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

KEY TERMS IN RŌMANS

*Here are a few key terms helpful to
understand as you read Romans:*

ELECTION

Election is “an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure”* and goodness. Most simply, you can think of it as “God choosing.”

REPROBATION

While this term is not used directly in Romans, it is the theological counterpart to election. It is “the sovereign decision of God before creation to pass over some persons, in sorrow deciding not to save them, and to punish them for their sins, and thereby to manifest his justice.”*

* These two definitions are from Wayne Grudem’s *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020)

*Notably, **election** and **reprobation** are not viewed symmetrically in Scripture: election to salvation is a cause for rejoicing and praise, with God actively choosing believers with delight, whereas reprobation brings God sorrow rather than delight, and blame is always placed on those who rebel, not on God.*

JUSTICE & INJUSTICE

The justice of God can be understood as the exercise of his **righteousness** (i.e., the perfect “rightness” of God in all things and in all of his ways; his total perfection.). It characterizes his moral nature and his right judgment in all things. Injustice, then, is a violation of God’s rightness in all things, a withholding of the exercise of his righteousness.

God’s justice isn’t measured against an external standard—it *is* the standard. God doesn’t conform to fairness; he defines it. His actions are just because they reflect *his* perfect nature, and he *cannot* act unjustly as he is justice itself.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group’s study. If you’re interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with one another as you gather.

If it helps, here’s a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

What’s a group, team, or family you were welcomed into unexpectedly — and how did you find out you belonged?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn’t gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1.  **Read Romans 9:14-29.** Looking back at your notes from this week’s message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

2. Pastor Josh defines **mercy** as when you *don’t get* what you *do* deserve; and **grace** as when you *do get* what you *don’t* deserve (**v. 15–16**). Which of those two feels more real to you day to day — and which one do you tend to forget you’ve actually received?

3.  **Read Exodus 33:19 and Titus 3:5.** God tells Moses he shows mercy because that’s who he is, not because Israel had done anything to deserve it (right after the golden calf, no less!). When has God been most generous with you at a moment you’d least earned it? If you’re willing, be specific and share with your group.

- As you’ve grown to realize mercy was never a reward you qualified for in the first place, how has your view of God changed?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



Secure Son/Daughter

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



Courageous Connector

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



Ready Storyteller

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



Legacy Builder

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the **Word**

Find the words from a passage related to this week’s message.

Word Find: Romans 9:19-24a (NIRV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹⁹ One of you will say to me, “**Then** why does God **still blame** us? Who can **oppose** what he **wants** to do?” ²⁰ But you are a **mere** man. So who are you to **talk back** to God? **Scripture** says, “Can what is **made** say to the one who **made** it, ‘Why did you **make** me **like** this?’ ” ²¹ Isn’t the **potter free** to **make different kinds** of **pots** out of the **same lump** of **clay**? **Some** are for **special purposes**. **Others** are for **ordinary** use. ²² What if God **chose** to **show** his **great** anger? What if he **chose** to **make** his power known? That is why he put up with **people** he was angry with. They had been **made** to be destroyed. ²³ What if he did that to **show** the riches of his **glory** to **others**? Those are the **people** he **shows** his mercy to. He had prepared them to receive his **glory**. ²⁴ We are those people.

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life groups

Study Guide *(continued)*

4.

Read Exodus 8:15, then read Exodus 9:12. Scripture is plain that Pharaoh hardened his own heart, but then simultaneously says that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. — *Which is it?*
In **Romans 9:17-18** Paul doesn't try to resolve that tension or pick a side. Why do you think he's willing to let both stand?
5.

Read Isaiah 45:9 and Job 38:1–4. "Who are you, O man, to answer back to God?" (v. 20). What's the difference between someone honestly bringing God their hardest questions and someone demanding God explain himself?
 - Have you ever caught yourself doing the second one instead of the first? How so?
6.

Read Romans 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9. God's patience toward "vessels of wrath" is described as endured, not ignored. In other words, it is God's restraint with a purpose, not his passivity (v. 22). Where has God's patience with you clearly been going somewhere, rather than just letting things slide?

Taking It Home

7.

Paul quotes Hosea's promise that "those who were not my people" would be called "*my people*" (v. 25). If you're a follower of Jesus, that was written for you before it was ever written *about* you! —before you had any history, family line, or claim of your own. Think about who first told you that you belonged to God: a parent, a friend, a pastor, someone who passed God's mercy to you.

Because of Jesus, a **Legacy Builder** multiplies what has been given to them by spiritually investing in others for Kingdom impact.

- Who's in front of you right now that God is asking you to pass this same mercy to — and what's one specific way you'll reach out to them this week?

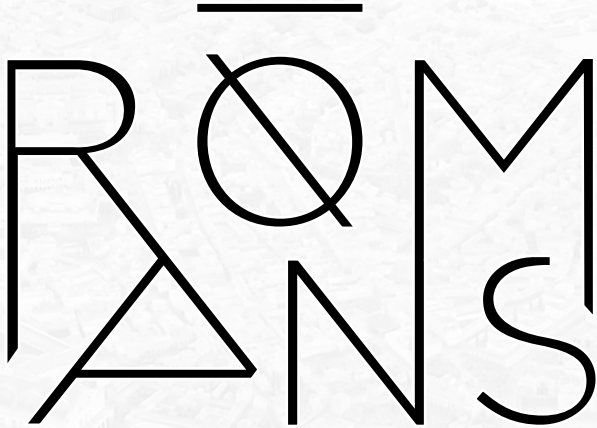
As you close, take time to pray for each other.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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PART 18
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