



Week 3
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Saint Nick

INTRODUCTION

Our Great God is a gift giver, offering us love and redemption.
He is our great Shepherd (our senior pastor).
His righteousness makes us saints as well.

DISCUSSION

Make up a quick myth, all on your own, about how Christmas started (if you ever saw the old TV show 'Lairs Club' this is the idea).

In theology, there is the idea of what is called "Imputed Righteousness." This is the understanding that God has given His very own righteousness to us. Justification is an **act** of God, not a **work** in progress. Discuss how you think this lead to how Nicolas lived his life.

EXPLANATION

Read Ephesians 2:1-7.

Do you think a proper understanding of our own salvation should make a difference in how we live?

What difference should it make?

If God plans for all eternity to show us the "*immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness*", how should we treat those around us?

How should we treat God?

Why does God choose to show us the "*immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness*?"

APPLICATION

How can we learn to be true gift givers?

What does that mean?

How would remembering that we are to be living daily as God's "saint" change our thoughts and attitudes?

MISSION

Especially at Christmas time, how can you show those around you the "*immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness*?"



Saint Nick

Colossians 3:17
Romans 8:1
Ephesians 2:6

2 Corinthians 5:17
Acts 27:5-6

Mark 12:14-17
Matthew 25:34-36

Week 3

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



Saint Nick

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

All believers are “saints” through their spiritual union with Christ, a fact Paul often expressed by the phrase “in Christ Jesus.”

- *Romans 8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*
- *Ephesians 2:5-6 – By grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*
- *2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

This use of the term “saint” emphasizes not personal holiness, though the believer’s conduct should correspond increasingly to his standing in Christ, but the objective status each believer possesses because the merits of Christ are imputed to him.

Saint does not refer to a condition after death, because the New Testament writers use the phrase to almost every church describing people who were very much alive.

SAINT NICK

Nicholas was born in the third century in Patara, a village in what is now Turkey. He was born into an affluent family, but his parents died tragically when he was quite young. His parents had raised him to be a devout Christian, which led him to spend his great inheritance on helping the poor, especially children. He was known to frequently give gifts to children, sometimes even hanging socks filled with treats and gifts.

Nicholas’ most famous act of kindness was helping three sisters. Because their family was too poor to pay for their wedding dowry, three young Christian women were facing a life of prostitution until Nicholas paid their dowry, thereby saving them from a horrible life of sexual slavery.

Nicolasvty grew to be a well-loved Christian leader and was eventually voted the Bishop of Myra. Nicholas also traveled to the legendary Council of Nicea, where he helped defend the deity of Jesus Christ in AD 325.

He died on December 6, 343AD. The anniversary of his death became the St. Nicholas Holiday, and gifts were given in his memory. The holiday in his honor eventually merged with Christmas as they were celebrated within weeks of one another.

It is good for us to remember Nicolas as:

- A gift giver - Helping the poor and rescuing the helpless. Jesus calls us to be this as well.
- A pastor - Nicolas understood this and pointed people to Jesus.
- A Saint - It was Jesus and his redeeming work that made him a saint, just like it is Christ’s redeeming work that has made all of us Saints as well.

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GOSPEL CLASS (8 weeks)

Sunday, January 15th 9:30am

Learn more about church membership:

<http://www.ourelement.org/about/member>

