

SYNOPSIS

This kick-off sermon to the launch series lays a biblical groundwork of our purpose in Christ to walk in good works, and offers a new way to do so. Starting with a reminder that salvation is offered to us as a gift of God’s grace, the key verse to then unpack is Ephesians 2:10. Here we see that we are “Grace Built People” (His workmanship) meant to “Grace Bomb People” (created for good works). Unlike generic kindness, a Grace Bomb is a more surprising act of love motivated by Jesus (of our time, treasure, or talent). The Bible is not silent in our call to love our neighbors, least of all Jesus who call us “the light of the world” and implores us to “let our light shine.” This metaphor reminds us that the grace we give should feel good to others and point to truth. The Grace Bomb tool provides a way to gently point to Jesus, the source of our kindness, while still creating a “no strings attached” experience. Examples and stories from your own life and the Grace Bomb movement create an energizing and motivating invitation to take up this habit of loading, listening, and letting ‘er go!

BIG IDEA

Grace-built people are made to Grace Bomb people

KEY TEXTS

Ephesians 2:10
Matthew 5:14-16
Hebrews 10:24

SLIDE 1

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Things that are made, are made for a purpose. The purpose of this opening illustration is to show that when something is made (a car, a snowboard, a hammer - anything that is of interest to you and will help the congregation engage), it’s maker has an idea of its purpose. This is true of our spiritual lives also.

We are going to look at one key verse today where Paul is very direct about our purpose *in Christ*.



(Before making your way to the key text, it may be helpful to quickly overview the death-to-life motif of Ephesians 2:1-7 that then sets the stage for this summary statement:)

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

- ***An important truth today in a religiously minded world.***
 - A typical religious worldview has a heavenly scale where we hope that our good deeds outweigh our bad ones.
 - But there is no scale. We are brought from death to life, by way of a gift.

Now let's break down our key verse today, Ephesians 2:10.

SLIDE 2

For we are His workmanship...

- "Workmanship"- an arranged, or manufactured thing - like a poem, built, crafted.
- **In other words we are:**

SLIDE 3

GRACE BUILT PEOPLE

- *Spiritually speaking, we have rolled off the assembly line of God's grace, and remember that things that are made are made for a purpose.*

Our ultimate purpose is to be in a relationship with our Creator, but here, Paul lasers in on one specific purpose:

SLIDE 4

...created in Christ Jesus for good works...

- *Good works: the practical action steps of love - where our good intentions become real among our neighbors - where the rubber meets the road.*
- **To put it another way:**

SLIDE 5

GRACE BUILT PEOPLE GRACE BOMB PEOPLE

DEFINING GRACE BOMB

SLIDE 6

A surprising act of love motivated by Jesus.

- God's Grace is unexpected, disruptive, and has the power to change everything.
 - Saul on the Damascus road is literally struck by grace!
- A Grace Bomb is a small taste of His grace that comes as a surprise.

Example story of a Grace Bomb from Monica:

"I was at the airport waiting for my flight, sitting at the gate with a terrible cold and suddenly a very nice guy gave me a bag with tissue paper, a small box with cinnamon, ginger and honey, earplugs and an ice tea. He wished me to feel better!!! That was one of the best surprises I ever had in my life!"

Then this exciting truth about these good works...

SLIDE 7

...which God prepared beforehand...

- Divine appointments in your everyday life – **walking into what God has prepared**
- The barista, the person behind you in line, your realtor, your teacher, your coach

Example story of a possible divine appointment:

First Shari shared this: "Going at the door at Sam's Club, there was a woman in front of me with a teenage daughter. She was so sweet and patient with this beautiful teenager that was mentally challenged. I gave her a card and some money and explained that the love I saw between the two of them made my day! She asked me if she could hug me and said, "Thank you, Jesus." 5 days later, Jaqueline wrote in: "I have a daughter who has cerebral palsy and severe mental illness! I was shopping at Sam's Club and had just completed my order. It was a stressful day. And I spent my last money on items, hoping to stretch out my food in the pantry. I had just finished praying! It seems like I had just said Amen! WHEN I WAS GRACE BOMBED!"

Now to finish our key verse:

SLIDE 8

...that we should walk in them.

- God doesn't force us to love, but He wants us to experience the joy that follows obedience.
- (Notice how Paul brings back the "walking" motif from 2:1 – once our life was oriented towards walking in sin, but now we should be walking in good works as a lifestyle.)



THE BIBLE IS NOT SILENT ON DROPPING GRACE BOMBS

(i.e. walking in good works)

SLIDE 9

Abound – 2 Corinthians 9:8
Be fruitful – Colossians 1:10
Zealous – Titus 2:14
Sacrifice – Hebrews 13:16
Our Testimony – 1 Peter 2:12

- **Abound – 2 Corinthians 9:8** (And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.)
- **Be fruitful – Colossians 1:10** (...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...)
- **Zealous – Titus 2:14** (who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.)
- **Sacrifice – Hebrews 13:16** (Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.)
- **Our Testimony – 1 Peter 2:12** (Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.)

And we have to let Jesus weigh in here:

SLIDE 10

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

- let your light shine = people seeing your good works
- Remember

SLIDE 11

Light gives warmth and points to reality.

- In general grace should feel good, not cold and judgmental.
- Grace can also reveal truth, by pointing others to the source of kindness.

(Let the tension build here)

Loving your neighbor, letting your light shine, and walking in good works are simple ideas, basic commands that we have all heard before – but putting them into practice can be harder than it looks in everyday life!

- *This is a great place to flesh out a story where it was hard to put your faith in this way into practice. For example: I tend to be introverted and suspect of people I don't know. Making even small steps towards my neighbors, faith stretching ones.*



SLIDE 12

Grace Bomb card graphic

THE GRACE BOMB CARDS

This is where the Grace Bomb cards and website come in to help break the ice and get some of your congregation moving for the first time.

The card is...

- **For you** as a reminder: That you've been Grace Bombed and have everyday opportunities
- **For your neighbor.** It accompanies your surprising act of love.
 - You explain your motivation (cards are not gospel tracts)
 - The website points them to Jesus as the source of your kindness.

PLAY WEB VIDEO

A couple points to reiterate:

Expected vs. unexpected - leverage the element of surprise. Grace Bombs go above and beyond what is customary or expected when it comes to giving.

Not another "Kindness" movement. This is a **Movement of Obedience to Jesus** where we intentionally and gently implicate Jesus as the source of our kindness.



THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL

SLIDE 13

LOAD. LISTEN. LET 'ER GO!

- **Load:** Be prepared, have a card on you & go about your normal day (decision!)
- **Listen:** Look and Listen for "the nudge" and be prayerful
 - The Holy Spirit's prompting to practice being the "light of the world"
 - How to bless: time, treasure, talent

SLIDE 14

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO GRACE BOMBING (Graphic)

- **Let 'Er Go!** Drop your Grace Bomb
 - This is where the rubber meets the road and the faith steps are taken

(This is a great place for you to share your personal experience with Grace Bombing a neighbor - a place to make it personal, and cast a vision of responding to the Lord in everyday life among our neighbors)

One minute to pray about a neighbor and a way to possibly bless them. Let this be a primer for you!

LISTENING EXERCISE

The power of God resides in the people of God, because therein lies the Spirit of God. The Church today is sitting on a powderkeg on untapped potential. Consider Grace Bomb your match!