



### **Unfair and Uncomfortable**

Romans 8:3, 5:6-8

**Message from Pastor Martin Hawley**

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**Bottom Line:** Fairness isn't a argument.

#### **Introduction:**

One of the criticisms of Christianity is that we believe we are right and everybody else is wrong ... that all other religions are wrong.

Last week, we talked about the similarities. Remember the Eight Commandments chart?

The other thing we have in common is that all religions admit failure. No one does these eight commandments very well.

And that's where the roads diverge! What do you do with all the missteps, mistakes, failures, sins, or in the case of Scientology, forgetfulness? What do you do with the gaps?

**Bottom Line:** There is a God. God has a standard for you to live by. But it's too hard, so good luck!

Religion reminds us that something is amiss. Religion tells us there's a gap. All the rules of religion condemn us, and all the religions are powerless to do anything else.

*For what the law was powerless to do, ...  
God did by sending his own Son ... to be a sin offering.  
-- Romans 8:3*

**But Jesus' claims are exclusive, unique, and narrow.**

This is the way also means that is not the way.

**Uncomfortable and unfair is not an argument for untrue.  
Uncomfortable and unfair is not an argument for anything.**

**Uncomfortable + Unfair ≠ Untrue**

The problem for many is that we think if there's a perfect God, there would be a system that is absolutely fair by our definition.

**We severely underestimate the significance of our sin and the brokenness of our world.**

Everybody we know falls short of the list.

What if ... breaking one of these condemns you?  
Do you really want God to be fair and give you what you deserve?

In that case, we don't want fair, we want mercy and forgiveness.

**The truth is ... God went way beyond fair.**

Romans 5:6-8, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own **love** for us in this: While we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us."

Is that fair? No. That's grace. That's mercy. That's incredible. That's amazing.

Christianity offers the most just system possible in an unjust world.

1. Everybody is welcome – **Grace**.
2. Everybody gets in the same way – **Jesus**.
3. Everybody can meet the requirement – **Faith**.

**Conclusion:**

Fair? No. Comfortable? No. Does that mean untrue? No.  
To this unfair, uncomfortable world, God sent his Son to go way beyond fair and comfortable to offer us exactly what we don't deserve: grace, forgiveness, and mercy to all who would receive it.

Everybody is welcome ... everybody.

The issue I hope you will wrestle with is not, "Is it comfortable or fair?" but "Is it true?" And if it is, what are you going to do about it?

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Memorize: Romans 8:3.**
- Pastor, today I have decided to follow Jesus.**

**Pastor, I want to learn more.**

- Sign me up for Starting Point on Tuesday night.**
- Sign me up for Community Group on Thursday night.**