

New City Catechism

Question 27: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

Answer: No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.

Romans 5:17

The adult version answer to today's question has 2 parts to it. We will only be committing the children's version (above) to memory, but we are going to discuss both parts. Take some time to read through the Q&A as written above. Once you have done that, read the adult version answer with both parts below:

Answer: No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith. Nevertheless, God in his mercy demonstrates common grace even to those who are not elect, by restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being.

This 2-part answer represents 2 categories of God's grace:

1. Saving grace
2. Common grace

Let's discuss what each of these mean...

First, let's look at God's **saving grace**.

Read John 3:16

- While God loves the whole world, will everyone in the world be saved?

Read John 6:35-40

- Who does this passage say will "never hunger" or "never thirst" (v.35)?
- Who does this passage say will come to Jesus (v.37)?
- What does Jesus promise to them (v.37)?
- Who does Jesus say will have eternal life and who does he promise to raise up on the last day (v.40)?
- Does this passage indicate that everyone receives the kind of God's grace that saves them?

Read Matthew 7:13-14

- Does Jesus indicate here that God's grace saves everyone?

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- Does Jesus indicate here that God's grace saves everyone?

Does this mean that the rest of the unsaved world misses out entirely on God's grace? *No way!* That's where God's **Common Grace** comes into play.

Common grace is God at work in our fallen world and in fallen humanity from the beginning of time until now. God is always at work in ways that represent his grace to all human beings, not just to believers. Our answer above gives examples of how God's grace is common to *all* men, what examples does our answer give? (restraining the effects of sin and enabling works of culture for human well-being).

- Can you think of ways you have seen God restrain sin in the lives of nonbelievers or in our world?
- In what way do you see God's grace reflected in the lives of nonbelievers and our world?

Read the following Scriptures and answer this question for each passage: What is being said here about God's common grace to ALL humanity?

- Romans 1:20
- Matthew 5:25
- Acts 14:17
- Romans 13:1

While everyone receives and benefits from God's common grace, our answer speaks of only some receiving God's saving grace—those whom he has “elected,” or chosen. We don't know whom God has chosen to receive his saving grace and whom he hasn't. We do know that he has called us to represent Christ to EVERYONE, to share the Gospel, and draw others nearer to Him. Spend some time thanking God for his saving grace in your life and his common grace to everyone. In addition, pray for individuals that you know need the saving grace of God.

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Commentary, Video, and Prayer as you see fit.

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