

Grace

...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

-John 1:17

What is Grace

- Charis

- “Grace” derives from the Greek, *charis*. In secular Greek, *charis* was related to *chairo*, “to rejoice.” As far back as Homer it denoted “sweetness” or “attractiveness.” It came to signify “favor,” “goodwill,” and “lovingkindness” — especially as granted by a superior to an inferior.
- In the New Testament, “grace” (156 times) takes on a special redemptive sense in which God makes available his **favor** on behalf of sinners, who actually do not deserve it.

Shadows of God's Grace

- God does not treat us as our sin deserves

- Divine grace was already at work in the garden of Eden when God responded to the debacle of the fall with the promise of redemption (Gn 3:15b) and watchful care (v 21) rather than with abandonment or retributive annihilation.
- Gen 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
- Gen 3:21 “The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”

- Enables us to Draw Near to God

- Exodus 34:6-9 “And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”⁸ Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.⁹ “O Lord, if I have found favor [*grace*] in your eyes,” he said, “then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.”

God's Grace Clearly Seen

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- **In Jesus**

- John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."
- John 1:17 "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."
- Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men."

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- **In Salvation**

- Ephesians 2:4-6 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by **grace** you have been saved.
- **Romans 3:23-24** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his **grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

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- **In Discipleship**

- **2 Corinthians 12:9** But he said to me, “My **grace** is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.
- **2 Timothy 2:1** “You then, my son, be strong in the **grace** that is in Christ Jesus.”
- **Hebrews 4:16** “Let us then approach God’s throne of **grace** with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find **grace** to help us in our time of need.”
- **Hebrews 13:9** “Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by **grace**, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.”
-

Grace & Salvation

- “The concept of God’s “grace” is thrilling beyond words. It shines its brightest, however, against the backdrop of another aspect of our Creator’s nature — that of sacred wrath.”
- Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God-Jonathan Edwards:
 - “...natural men are held in the hand of God over the pit of hell; they have deserved the fiery pit, and are already sentenced to it; and God is dreadfully provoked, his anger is as great towards them as to those that are actually suffering the executions of the fierceness of his wrath in hell, and they have done nothing in the least to appease or abate that anger, neither is God in the least bound by any promise to hold ‘em up one moment; the devil is waiting for them, hell is gaping for them, the flames gather and flash about them, and would fain lay hold on them, and swallow them up; the fire pent up in their own hearts is struggling to break out; and they have no interest in any mediator, there are no means within reach that can be any security to them. In short, they have no refuge, nothing to take hold of, all that preserves them every moment is the mere arbitrary will, and uncovenanted unobliged forbearance of an incensed God.”

Grace & Salvation

● Ephesians 2:1-10

- The Before Picture: vv. 1-3
 - dead in our sins and transgressions
 - followers of the world
 - followers of the ruler of the kingdom of the air (Satan)
 - following our sinful desires and cravings
 - by nature objects of [God's] wrath
- The Turning Point: vv. 4-5
 - God's love
 - God's rich mercy
 - Made alive with Christ

● Romans 1-6

- The Before Picture: 1:18-3:20
- Salvation by Grace through Faith: 3:21-6:10
- Life under Grace not under the Law: 6:11-8:39
 - 6:14 "For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace."

Grace & Discipleship



- **Inexhaustible/Unconditional Grace**

- This is the idea that God's grace will continue to cover us no matter what we do or how we live AFTER we become Christians. While it is true that God's Grace will save anyone despite ANY amount or type of sins committed before they were a Christian...once we become disciples we are meant to live as slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:18)
- Scriptures that refute this viewpoint:
 - **Romans 6:1** "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!"
 - **Jude 1:4** For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who **pervert the grace** of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.
 - **Hebrews 10:29** How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has **insulted the Spirit of grace?**

Grace & Discipleship



- No Grace Post Conversion: “Christian Perfect”
 - The idea that Grace is shown to us when we become a Christian but if we mess up afterwards God gets fed up with us and stops showing us Grace.
 - Scriptures that refute this viewpoint:
 - **1 John 1:8-9** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
 - **James 4:5-7** Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? But he gives us **more grace**. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 - God loves us and fights for our relationship! He knows we will be sorely tested and tempted by Satan...but God’s grace is greater than the one who seeks to condemn us! Our call is to be humble towards God and grace is available to us!

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- Conversational Grace

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- Humble Service to One Another and God's Church

- **Romans 12:3-8** For by the **grace** given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you...We have different gifts, according to the **grace** given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your^[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Grace and Discipleship

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- Fruitfulness

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- Hard Work

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- Resist Sin

- **Titus 2:11-12** For the **grace** of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

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- Encouragement, Hope, & Strength

- **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his **grace** gave us **eternal encouragement** and **good hope**, encourage your hearts and **strengthen you** in every good deed and word.

The Grace to Come

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- **Ephesians 2:6-7** “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”
- We are the Bride of Christ, Sons of God, and Co-Heirs with Christ...which means we share with Christ in His inheritance in Heaven! (Eph 5:32, Gal 3:26-29)
- Take Courage...if God fought so hard and sacrificed so much to win us back to Him, He will give us all the Grace we need to make it to Heaven...we only need stay faithful to Him and His Grace covers us!

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- Amen