



Definitions of Grace:

Grace: Receiving God's undeserved favor.

Grace: receiving something we don't deserve.

Grace VS Religion:

Religion is man's attempt to reach God.

Grace is about God's attempt to reach man.

Religion relies on what we do.

Grace relies on what Jesus has done.

- What you believe about God's grace will affect how you live in God's grace.

1 Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross.

2 Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ.

3 How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? Galatians 3:1-3 (NLT)

Understanding the Law:

- The law couldn't defeat sin, but rather exposes it.

7 ...it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." Romans 7:7 (NLT)

- The law is not bad, but rather incomplete.

21 Is there a conflict, then, between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it.

22 But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:21-22 (NLT)

- The law was not the end, but rather a means to the end.

24 ...The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. Galatians 3:24 (NLT)

17 "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. 19 So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 5:17-19 (NLT)

God's grace determines your standing with God; God's law's demonstrates His value of you.

4 ...some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives... Jude 1:4 (NLT)

- Jesus does not expect you to already be right, He wants to make you right.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

- When you are made right, what you ought to do becomes what you want to do.

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

- God's grace isn't meant to enable you, but inspire.

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (NIV)

- The closer we get to God, the more we discover our value.

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 4:16 (NIV)

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What spoke most to you from Sundays Talk? Explain.
- Why is it important that we understand God's grace?
- In your own words, what is the difference between Grace and religion?
- Do you believe that as Christ followers we no longer have to obey God's law? Explain. Does Matthew 5:17-19 support that?
- The "tension" that Dave talked about Sunday was: Many use God's grace to act as they please. Have you experienced this? Is that what God's grace is suppose to look like?
- How do we affectively live in God's grace? How does that shape our view of God and how we treat others?

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