



## **God's Amazing Grace Series**

### **Part 4 : God's Grace in Everyday Life**

### **Sunday April 19, 2009**

While everything in the Christian life is "by grace through faith", God has placed some responsibility on us to appropriate that unlimited grace and walk in it, in daily life.

Today, we will address a few selected areas in every day life, and learn how the grace of God applies to that area.

Before we do so, we need to "clear the air" about one important misconception some believers may have about the Grace of God. This has to do with "Grace, Confession of sin and Repentance".

#### **Grace, Confession of sin and Repentance**

We have been freely justified by His grace (Romans 3:24 Romans 5:17).

Some, in their understanding of grace, have misapplied the truth of justification by grace, and the grace gift of righteousness, to state that since all your sins are forgiven even before you commit them, there is no real need for confession of sin and repentance. This has led to what has been termed "sleazy grace" in some parts of Christendom.

*Are all your sins forgiven even before you confess them?*

Yes, in the sense that Christ died for all sins, past, present and future. And yet the Scriptures teach us to confess our sins to appropriate forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

Christ was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world and yet, He had to be crucified in time as the Lamb of God.

Christ has already paid for the sins of the whole world. In the Court of Heaven, any and every human person can be saved. However, we know that one has to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved.

So while Christ has already paid for all my wrong doing, even before I have committed them, I still need to confess and forsake sin when I do commit them.

Illustration:

The Corinthian believer who sinned in 1 Corinthians 5. How did Paul respond? He was very stern in dealing with sin to the point of withdrawing from fellowship with this person. We know that this person and the entire local church repented and Paul encouraged them to extend grace to the person who had sinned (2 Corinthians 2:9-11).

Or think about the 7 churches in the book of Revelation. Jesus did not simply overlook their wrongs and weaknesses and say "all is ok, you are already forgiven". To almost every church Jesus said "repent!"



*Is it the act of confession that brings forgiveness or the Cross of Jesus Christ?*

Obviously the price that Jesus paid that makes it possible for us to receive forgiveness. Repentance and Confession is our way of expressing our need, and our faith in the completed work of Christ on the Cross.

*Does a believer sin when he sins?*

Of course, a sin is a sin. There is no such thing as "not a real" sin. Just because a person is a believer, does not mean that his wrong doing is not considered sin. It is. And he needs to confess and forsake the sin.

*"I can't remember to confess all my sins to confess them"*

This is true. We cannot keep track of every single wrong doing we commit.

**Psalm 19:12,13**

**12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.**

**13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.**

The Key is to avoid ditches on either side:

- Avoid being those who know grace, but still live under self-made law
- Avoid sleazy grace or extreme grace, where people cast of all restraint

**Galatians 5:13**

**For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**

**Romans 13:14**

**But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

**NOW: "God's Grace in Everyday Life"**

### **Grace for Godly Living**

Sanctification – living a holy consecrated life – is a work of grace in the life of the believer. None of us can boast that we have attained to the level we are at because of our own efforts. And yet, God invites us to appropriate His grace released through His Word and His Spirit, to live godly, sanctified lives.

**Romans 5:20-6:2**

**20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,**

**21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?**

**2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

Where there is great sin, there is also great grace. However, this grace is to transform us and rule in us through righteousness. So while we enjoy unlimited grace, it is not for us to continue in sin. Rather the unlimited grace moves us to righteousness. We are "The Living Dead", in that we are alive, but dead to sin.

**Romans 6:14-15**

**14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

**15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!**



Sin will not have dominion over us because we are under grace! Under grace, we receive what we do not have – the power to overcome sin! Therefore sin will not have dominion over us.

**Titus 2:11-14**

**11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,  
12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,  
13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,  
14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.**

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of grace (Zechariah 12:10, Hebrews 10:29)  
God's Word is called the word of grace (Acts 14:3, Acts 20:32)

Therefore, God's Holy Spirit and God's Word are important means (of course not the only means) by which the grace of God is released in to our lives.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies us (1 Peter 1:2), transforming us into Christ-likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18) and empowers us to crucify the flesh.

**Galatians 5:16**

**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

**Romans 8:13**

**For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

Similarly God's Word sanctifies us (John 17:3).

We must appropriate God's grace by faith and dependence on His Word and Spirit to walk godly lives.

**1 Corinthians 9:27**

**But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.**

Paul testified to the Corinthians:

**2 Corinthians 1:12**

**For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.**

Although Paul disciplined his own body, etc., Paul said that his ability to conduct himself with simplicity and godly sincerity was a work of God's grace.

**Grace to Overcome Temptation**

**Hebrews 2:16-18**

**16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.  
17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.  
18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.**



**Hebrews 4:16**

**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

### **Grace that Strengthens**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

**7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.**

**8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.**

**9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."**

**Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

**10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

### **Grace that Provides**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

**6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

**7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**

**8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**

### **Grace that Conquers**

**Zechariah 4:6-9**

**6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.**

**7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "**

**8 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:**

**9 "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.**

### **Grace that Disciplines**

A gracious God who disciplines His people

**Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.**

**Hebrews 12:5-7**

**5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM;**

**6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."**

**7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?**

**8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.**

**9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?**

**10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.**

**11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

**12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,**

**13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.**



**14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:**

**15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;**

**16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.**

**17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.**

We serve a loving and gracious God. And yet God in His grace “chastens” us. To chasten is to lovingly correct. It is not what many of us tend to picture in our minds – a God who is waiting to rain down fire and brimstone, waiting to put us through some terrible disease, some dreadful accident, some painful calamity, etc. This is not the way God chastens His children.

God lovingly corrects us through His Word, His Spirit, through godly people around us, through the steering of our circumstances, etc.

No correction seems pleasant. But this is a loving God at work, working His best for us.

We are exhorted in this passage not to fall short of the grace of God, not to get “left out” (MSG Bible) of the grace of God. It means that if we are not careful, we may put ourselves in a place where the grace of God is not effective in our lives. God’s grace is available in abundance. But it is we who put ourselves in a place where we get left out of the grace of God on our lives.

Application in the life of the Christian leader.

As Christian leaders we must extend grace, but also bring discipline in the lives of those we lead.

[Call for Congregational Response]

### **Enjoying and Experiencing Grace in Everyday Life**

- Application
  - Grace for godly living
  - Grace to overcome temptation
  - Grace that strengthens
  - Grace that provides
  - Grace that conquers
  - Grace that disciplines
- Make a daily demand on the grace of God
  - Walk in faith
  - Walk in humility (James 4:6)
  - Come to the throne of grace to find help
- Give God all the glory for His grace

[Salvation Call]