

The Truth about God's Grace

Part 1

Introduction: Teaching on the subject of grace has become popular in recent years. However, some of it is based on man-made ideology rather than Biblical truth. In this study we will look at what the Bible says on the subject of grace.

I. Grace – God's Power to Rule over Sin

1. Grace for salvation – Eph. 2:8-9

- a. One of the reasons people do not understand the truth about grace is because they do not even understand salvation.
- b. Salvation is the power to be free from sin – Matt. 1:21
- c. The context of Ephesians 2 shows us exactly what we were saved from – Eph. 2:1-7.
- d. Note that we were saved from Satan's power to rule over us and cause us to sin – Acts 26:18; 1 John 3:8
- e. Therefore, grace is not God's method of allowing "Christians" to sin and get away with it. It is the power of God that frees us from the bondage of sin. When we sin we are under Satan's control (1 John 5:18-19).

2. Grace – Freedom from Sin's Power

- a. Sin and Satan are synonymous – Gen. 4:7; 1 John 3:8-12
- b. Grace is the power that God gives to resist Satan and serve God – James 4:4-8
- c. The purpose of our Lord's salvation is to set us free from the slavery of sin – John 8:31-35
- d. *"Jesus answered them, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, Whoever commits and practices sin is the **slave of sin**"* (John 8:35; Amplified Bible)

- e. This is why Paul is shocked at the idea that some would erroneously claim that God's grace means being allowed to sin without any temporal or eternal repercussions.
- f. Rom. 6:1-7; 12-19 – Grace gives us power to control our bodies and live holy.
- g. Heb. 12:24-29 – Grace enables us to have holy fear to serve God. It is not a license to serve sin and get away with it in this life or the next.

3. Grace can be Forfeited

- a. Heb. 12:14-16 – No man will see God apart from holiness. It is clear that we can fail of God's grace.
- b. *Take care that no one forfeits the grace of God; and that no root of bitterness grows up and causes trouble and by it many are defiled* (Heb. 12:15; Mounce Reverse-Interlinear New Testament)
- c. Forfeit – “something to which the right is lost, as for commission of a crime or misdeed, neglect of duty, or violation of a contract.” (Dictionary.com)
- d. Heb. 12:28-29 – The purpose of grace is to be able to serve God with a godly fear.
- e. Jude 1:4-5
- f. Lasciviousness – lustful sexual perversion (pornography, pedophilia, etc.)
- g. Jude uses Israel as an example of people who were “saved” from Egypt but because of their sins in the wilderness they suffered God's wrath. Jude is telling us that the idea that “once in grace, always in grace” is a false idea.
- h. Hebrews 10:24-31 – Again reference is made to Israel and Moses. Those of us who sin willfully after having received grace outside the law, having been given the power to live holy that the law never provided, will suffer greater punishment.
- i. Despite – “contemptuous treatment; insult. malice, hatred, or spite.”
- j. Eph. 6:23-24; John 14:15, 21 – Those who love Jesus are the ones who receive grace. Love for Jesus is expressed by doing what He says.

- k. Psalm 84:10-11 – Only those who walk uprightly qualify for God’s grace.
4. Your new identity in Christ Jesus
- a. The old saying that we are “sinners saved by grace” is a false statement. A born again Christian is no longer identified as a sinner.
 - b. Rom. 6:17-20 – Notice the words “were” in verses 17 and 20. This is past tense. That means you are no longer that.
 - c. Eph. 2:1-6 – We were dead in trespasses and sins. This is not us anymore. We are alive in Christ and seated in heavenly places with Him.
 - d. 1 Cor. 6:8-11 – Paul talks about what we *were* and what we presently *are*. We need to stop talking about what were “were” and begin to declare what we are. We are no longer “sinners” but we are washed, sanctified and made righteous (Justified).
 - e. 2 Cor. 5:17-21
 - f. What we say about ourselves has power. We become what we say. Abram (father) became Abraham (father of many nations) because he continued to say that about himself (See Romans 4).
 - g. If I confess that I am a “sinner saved by grace” or “I am just a forgiven sinner,” and that “I must sin every day” then my words have given sin power over me – Prov. 18:21.
 - h. 1 Tim. 1:15 – Some strangely believe that Paul was advocating the “I am a sinner saved by grace” attitude here. This is not the case. Paul is simply stating that he is number 1 among the sinners Christ came to save. However, if Christ came to save and Paul accepted this salvation then he is no more a sinner (see Matt. 1:21)
 - i. If there are several of us drowning and we got saved I can say to those asking, “Yes, I am number one person that the lifeguard came to save from drowning.” This does not mean that I am still drowning (or I would be dead and not able to talk about it). It only means that I acknowledge that I was in the number one place among those who the lifeguard came to save.