

# What Is Grace?

*Pre-intro: Not to sound cryptic, but I'm going to ask you to not assume that this message is about whatever you may think it's about. This one comes from a variety of things over a span of time. Instead, set everything else aside and assume it's for you, because it just might be.*

## Intro

- What is grace?
  - Just a churchy word? "Amazing grace how sweet the sound..." I was lost? Blind?
  - **Ephesians 2:8-9**, just noise?
  - Culture today teaches that there aren't any lost. "Not all who wonder are lost."
  - Truth is relative, everything is up for interpretation, especially anything that claims to be absolute, like Jesus and the Bible.
  - Sometimes it helps to understand why you need something in order to understand what it is or what it does. "I'm getting a Chihuahua." "You need a bark collar." "What does that do? Why do I need it?" "Trust me!"
- Why do we need grace? Because of our sin. OK.
- What is sin, and how do I get this grace to fix the sin? You repent. What's that? OK.
- I'm already a believer. Does this apply to me or can I tune you out until donut time? In some cases this is especially for believers.

## Working definitions: sin, grace, repentance.

- **Choice** - Sin is deciding for yourself and acting on that, instead of acting on what the Lord has decided. The result is separation from the Lord.
- **Charity** - Grace is that which motivates God to confront us out of love with our sin, and to offers to us through Jesus, out of His goodness and love toward us, the means to fix the sin problem, requiring nothing in return to obtain it. The result is a restored, dynamic, joyful, and thankful relationship with God.
- **Change** - Repentance is the joyful, humble, thankful, continual response to having experienced and continuing to experience God's grace, demonstrated by acting on what the Lord has decided and not what we decide. The result is a life that is continually transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, a life that is continually being conformed into the image of Jesus.

## Genesis 3 The Garden

- Sin - **3:5**
- Grace - **3:15, 21**.
- Repentance - They obeyed God with their lives, having kids, working the land.

## 2 Samuel 11-12 David and Nathan

- Sin - **chapter 11**. If you are walking in God's grace you will not be using it to excuse or justify sin, you will be surrendering your will to His and enjoying the truth, freedom, life, and healing that comes from it.
- Grace - **12:1-15**, specifically **12:7-14**.
- Repentance - **12:13**, demonstrated the rest of his life, even providing for the Temple.

## Psalm 103 slide (emph. the joy and thankful dynamic)

- Pattern of sin, grace, repentance, choice, charity, change, throughout.

## Luke 15:11-32 The Prodigal Son

- Sin - 15:11-13. Going to live my way, not the father's way.
- Grace - 15:17-19. Always at work internally before demonstrated
- Repentance - 15:20-21 External demonstration
- More grace - 15:22-24 Because he deserved it for coming back? No, 15:32.

## John 8:2-11 The Woman Caught in Adultery

- Some teach this emphasizing the Pharisees, others the woman. It's both.
- Sin - 8:3, woman. 8:6 Pharisees.
- Grace - 8:7, Pharisees. 8:11.
- Repentance - 8:9, Pharisees didn't repent, retreated. Woman, doesn't specify.

## Acts 2:29-41 Pentecost (cut for time?)

- Sin - 2:36, sin in general but this was specific
- Grace - 2:37-40, working in them, the offer and promise
- Repentance - 2:41, baptized, went out and planted churches back home.
- Grace is how we are saved, how we continue in that salvation, is the basis for how we interact with the world around us, inside/outside of the church. Eph 2:8-9, 2 Cor 5:17

## What is grace?

- Grace is that which bridges sin and repentance. Most people are aware, on some level, that they are a sinner, that they have done wrong, and that they need to make up for it. This is where religion comes from. Religion doesn't work.
- Grace says, "I want to give you something. But first you have to put that down." Jungle monkey traps. Romans 6:23, free gift.
- Grace involves change.
  - God is the grace giver, we are the receiver.
  - When we experience God's grace, we respond to it, we react to it. We don't change, we are changed. We don't change ourselves, God's grace changes us if we yield to it.
  - Like a poopy baby cries at the discomfort of its dirty diaper, and everyone around knows it's dirty, we experience joy, relief, love and appreciation come forth, and everyone around us knows, can tell that we've been changed.
  - Country music on the car radio. Repent and change the station!
- Grace works through the Holy Spirit.
  - God's grace in our lives is always initiated by the power of the Holy Spirit in us, and manifested by the power of the Spirit through us. Gal 5:16+
  - Primary demonstration is love, radiation.
- Grace is always actively available. 2 Peter 3:9
- Review definitions from above
- Channeled - Evangelism is both grace and repentance working together in us and through us. The result is more people saved from sin to grace and repentance.
- Are you trapped between sin and grace, or living in the freedom of grace and repentance? Put down what you are hanging onto, receive, and enjoy.