

"Grace upon Grace"

John 1:14-18

It is important that we have the doctrines of Christ (2 John 9) but it is as equally important that we have the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9).

Paul wrote, "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29).

Wouldn't you agree that we all need to be more like Jesus? And never are we more like Jesus than when we are living a life of grace.

Grace in the New Testament is largely encompassed by the use of the word *charis*. Grace is God's unmerited favor. Grace is getting what you need and not what you deserve.

As Christians when we sin and have a repentant attitude toward that sin we are falling into grace (1 John 1:7-9) not out of grace (Galatians 5:4).

Jesus delivers grace. "For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17)

Jesus embodies grace – John tells us that He is "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Jesus is the personification of grace (Luke 4:22).

Jesus lived grace. The woman caught in adultery in John 8. Zacchaeus in Luke 19.

Jesus taught grace. The prodigal son in Luke 15. The Good Samaritan in Luke 10.

Jesus extends grace. The "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5:38-45.

Conclusion:

First, accept God's grace. You cannot earn God's grace but you can receive His grace.

Second, practice grace. Practice grace in your life, your home, in your work place and in your congregation.

Third, teach grace. Tell others the great news about the Gospel of Grace (Acts 20:24).