

Grace Unknown!

The Nature of Grace

- Grace = God's goodness to those who deserve and have earned only wrath.
- Grudem: God's favor toward those who deserve no favor but only punishment.
- Abraham Booth: "the eternal and absolute free favor of God, manifested in the vouchsafement of spiritual and eternal blessings to the guilty and the unworthy."
- Pink: "the favor of God to those who not only have no positive deserts of their own, but also who are thoroughly ill-deserving and hell deserving."
- Tozer: "His goodness directed toward human debt and demerit. It is by His grace that God imputes merit where none previously existed and declares no debt to be where one had before."

The Character of God

- Ex. 34:6 - the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious.
- Ps. 119:132 - Turn to me and be gracious to me, After Your manner with those who love Your name.
- John 1:14 - the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- John 1:17 - the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

The Character of God

- Rom. 5:15 - the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.
- 1 Cor. 1:4 - the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus
- Heb. 10:29 - the Spirit of grace
- 1 Pet. 5:10 - the God of all grace.

The Character of Grace

- OT noun = *chen*, grace or favor
- 69x in the OT
- 43x as "to find favor in the eyes of..."
- Cf. Gen. 6:5, 8
- NT word = *charis*

The Character of Grace

- Eternal (2 Tim. 1:9)
- Free (Rom. 3:21-24)
- Sovereign (Rom. 5:21; 9:15)

The Expressions of Grace: Salvation

- The gospel message (Acts 20:24)
- The whole process of salvation from beginning to end (Acts 11:23; 15:10-11; Eph. 2:5, 8-9).
- Forgiveness of sin (Neh. 9:17; Eph. 1:7).
- Election (Rom. 11:5; 2 Tim. 1:9)

The Expressions of Grace: Salvation

- The effectual call (Gal. 1:15).
- Faith (Acts 18:27)
- Justification (Rom. 3:21-24; 4:4-5; 11:6; Gal. 5:4; Tit. 3:7)

The Expressions of Grace: Sanctification

- 2 Th. 1:11-12 - To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Tim. 2:1 - You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
- Heb. 13:9 - Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace.

The Expressions of Grace: Sanctification

- 1 Pet. 5:10 - After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.
- 2 Pet. 3:18 - grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

The Expressions of Grace: All Service & Ministry

- Acts 4:33 – great grace given to the apostles in their ministry
- Rom. 1:5 – Paul received grace to take the gospel to the Gentiles
- Rom. 12:6 (cf. Eph. 4:7; 1 Pet. 4:10) – spiritual gifts granted by grace
- 1 Cor. 3:10 – grace was given to Paul to enable him to build the Corinthians
- 1 Cor. 15:10 – Paul labored by grace
- 2 Cor. 9:8 – “by grace we have sufficiency for all things and abundance for every good work”
- Eph. 3:2 (cf. 3:7) – Paul calls his ministry a “stewardship of God’s grace”

The Expressions of Grace: Eternal Blessing

- 1 Pet. 1:13 - fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Eph. 2:7 - so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

The Use of Grace

- If you are still guilty before God for your sins, cry out to God to show you grace (Rom. 3:21-24).
- If you're in Christ, you stand in grace (Rom. 5:2).
- God's grace is sufficient and active in our trials and weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:7-10).
- Don't use grace as an excuse for your sin (Jude 4; Rom. 6:1, 14-15).

The Use of Grace

- Because we enjoy God's favor, we should show it to others—especially in our speech (Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6).
- If you want to experience God's grace, while you can never earn it, God has provided some conditions:
 - Desire it and pray for His grace for:
 - Ourselves (Heb. 4:16)
 - Others (Rom. 1:7; 16:20; 1 Cor. 1:3; 16:23; 2 Cor. 1:2; 13:14; Gal. 1:3; 6:18; Eph. 6:24; 1 Th. 5:28).
 - Cultivate humility (1 Pet. 5:5-8).

**Amazing
Grace!**