

# Fundamentals Of The Church

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## God's Grace

(Ep 2:8-9)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fundamentals Of The Church."
  - a. I hope you have enjoyed this as much as I have.
  - b. We have looked at everything from worship to the Godhead.
  - c. This morning we are going to look at something that is often said and rarely understood (now-a-days)...God's Grace.
3. Grace
  - a. Comes from the Hebrew word "חַנּוּן" or "khan-noon"
    - i. "In many ways, chanan combines the meaning of the Greek charis (with the general classical Greek sense of "charm" or "graciousness") and the New Testament sense of "undeserved favor" or "mercy.'" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 1: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (101). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
  - b. Comes from the Greek word "χάρις" or "karis"
    - i. "word; grace, kindness:—blessing(1), concession(1), credit(3), favor(11), gift(1), grace(122), gracious(2), gracious work(3), gratitude(1), thank(3), thankfulness(2), thanks(6)." (Thomas, R. L. (1998). New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.)
4. God's grace has been misused and abuse so often anymore no one has a firm grip on its meaning.
  - a. So today we are going to look at what Grace does not mean and what it does mean.

### I. Grace Does *Not* Mean...

- A. That all people will be saved
  1. **Ti 2:11** "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people"<sup>1</sup> (ESV)
    - i. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men"
  2. **Mt 7:13-14, 21** "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it...21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
  3. Though God's grace has appeared to and has brought salvation for all people doesn't mean all people will be saved. There is more to it than that. Grace alone does not save.
    - i. **Ep 2:8** "saved by grace through faith"

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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## "Grace Does Not Mean"

- B. That there are no "works" for us as Christians to do ie "once saved always saved"
  - 1. Contradiction...not at all.
    - i. **Ja 2:24-26** "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."
    - ii. **Ep 2:9** "not of works, lest anyone should boast."
  - 2. There are excluded works
    - i. Merit – **Ep 2:9**
    - ii. Human Devising – **Ro 10:3**
    - iii. Mosaic covenant – **Ro 4**
  - 3. There are required works
    - i. Obedience – **Ro 1:5**
    - ii. Righteousness – **Ac 10:35**
    - iii. Belief In Jesus – **Jn 6:28-29**
- C. That men can be saved without obedience to the Lord's will
  - 1. Jesus' obedience served as our example
    - i. **He 5:8-9** "though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"
  - 2. Obedience will be a basis of judgment
    - i. **II Th 1:7-9** "and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power"
- D. That in judgment, God will disregard His will (God is love...)
  - 1. We will be judged by the law of Christ.
    - i. **Jn 12:48** "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."
  - 2. Thus our life will be compared to the law of Christ.
    - i. **II Co 5:10** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."
- E. That God's Plan of Salvation involves no law
  - 1. Some pervert **Romans 6:14**
    - i. Paul is not talking about all law. Remember there have been three laws, Patriarchal, Mosaic, & Christ.
      - a. **He 11:4 (Ro 10:17); Ex, Lv, Nu, Dt; Ga 6:2**

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- ii. Paul is talking about Mosaic Law
  - a. **Ro 7:1-4** "Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God."
2. Paul later describes this new law
  - i. **Ro 8:2** "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."
3. James calls it "the perfect law of liberty"
  - i. **Ja 1:25** "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."
4. Thus God's Plan of Salvation require Christ's Law.
  - i. **I Co 9:21** "To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law." (ESV)

## II. Grace Does Mean...

- A. God was not obligated to man to save him
  1. We were sinners.
    - i. **Co 1:21** "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled"
  2. God showed gave us grace showing us His love
    - i. **Ro 5:8** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- B. God has provided for man's salvation
  1. **Ro 3:21-24** "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"

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## "Grace Does Mean"

2. **Jn 3:16-17** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."
  - i. **Ti 2:11**
- C. We have the Word of God
  1. **Ac 20:32** "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."
    - i. **II Ti 3:16-17**
- D. We must labor for the cause of Christ
  1. Grace demands a life of labor
    - i. **I Co 15:10** "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."
- E. We have the needed instruction – both negative and positive
  1. **Ti 2:11-12** "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"

## CONCLUSION

1. The true grace of God is a wonderful and powerful thing.
  - a. Vianney said, "As the earth can produce nothing unless it is fertilized by the sun, so we can do nothing without the grace of God"
2. We must understand that...
  - a. Grace and law are compatible.
  - b. Grace and works are not incompatible.
  - c. We must accept and obey God's plan that He has graciously provided for us.
  - d. We must obey if we want the blessings of grace.
3. The question today is...has everyone here taken hold of the grace of God which He so freely gives (**Ro 6:23**)?
  - a. To those here that are not Christians why not take hold of God's grace?
  - b. To those here that are Christians make sure you have not fallen from grace (**Ga 5:4**).
4. Invitation
  - a. God's Plan of Salvation
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**