

GRACE

Ephesians 1:5-6, John 1:16; Titus 2:11; Romans 3:24; Hebrew 4:16; Rev 22:21.

There is a spiritual meaning to Grace. An act of God's bending in kindness to an inferior or undeserved person or entity to regenerate or sanctify to God's original plan. No one is worthy of God's Grace. Wrapped in the love and mercy, Grace provides abundant forgiveness when needed. There is a danger of the church's frivolous attitude towards Grace because of the secularization. A pastor offers grace when we say something that may ignorantly be offensive. *By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.* " (Eph. 2:8) Grace is costly: it is purchased of the Blood of Jesus and costs more than many people could possibly realize. Grace can be counterfeited when it has no value in a Cristian. Grace is to instruct us to live righteously and godly. It brings us to Christ and bids us to surrender, Grace is diluted if we (Titus 2:12) The more we surrender the more we increase in His Grace. Grace is continuous. (Romans 5:2) The entire life of a believer is not only driven by Grace but also empowered by it. (Hebrews 13:9) Grace does not cancel the moral demands of God's law, instead it fulfil the righteousness of the law (Romans 6:14-15) David and Abraham were sinners, just like you and me. Yet God made Abraham the father of His chosen people, Israel, from whom the Messiah would arise. He made David father of the royal line from whom the Messiah would descend. Jesus was the Son of David by royal *descent* and Son of Abraham by racial *ascent*. What happens to your heart when you are on the receiving end of forgiveness and you don't deserve it is, something inside of you makes you love God and others more. It unleashes love that comes one way from God and spills out from our lives into the lives of other people.

You must be aware that your life falls far short of God's perfect standard of righteousness and that you fall back into sin with disturbing frequency. You no longer of your former father, the devil (John 8:44); you no longer love the world (1 John 2:15); and you are no longer sin's slave, but You are still subject to its deceit and still attracted by many of its allurements. Yet you cannot be happy with your sin, because it is contrary to your new nature and because you know that it grieves God as well as your own conscience. Our lives and living are due to the Grace of God. God's Grace is the foundation on which the Gospel message is built. the tendency is there to ignore other vital aspects of gospel truth by undermining the work of sanctification in the Christian life. overstressing the principle of remaining sin in believers undoubtedly makes a mockery of God's grace.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How has Grace manifested in the Church? How has Grace manifested in the life of an individual?**
- 2. Why does God desire humans to have Grace? How can Grace be earned?**
- 3. How can a Christian respond to Grace? How did others in the Bible respond to Grace?**
- 4. What is the difference between Mercy and Grace?**
- 5. Is it possible to put too much emphasis on an aspect of biblical truth like Grace? What are the implications?**
- 6. How is salvation a gift from God? What is the origin of Grace?**
- 7. What is cheap Grace? How is this related to Indulgences? What are the dangers of cheap Grace to Christian values?**
- 8. What are the laws of Grace? (Romans 8:2, James 1:25) Discuss Romans 6:1-2 vs Romans 5:21**
- 9. How does Grace in the Old Testament compare to New Testament? (John 1:17)**
- 10. Has God always been gracious? Or did Jesus death and resurrection alter his character.**
- 11. Who received Grace in the Old Testament? (Gen. 6:8, 12:3b 50:20; Ex 4:13, Judges 10:16, Joshua 2:11b Ps 51: 1)**
- 12. How can we deepen our understanding of God's Grace? What are the practical steps to achieving this?**
- 13. How can an overemphasis on Grace distort practical matters like holiness and obedience?**