

ABUNDANT LIVING - 'Only By Grace'

SECTION ONE: What's So Amazing About Grace ? SECTION TWO: Three Sides Of Grace.

SECTION ONE: What Is Grace ?

(1) INTRODUCTION:

The Greek word 'charis' comes from the root 'chara' which is the word for 'Joy' (as one of the Fruit of the Spirit).

Understanding and living in His grace will release us into lives of great **JOY!**

Ps 51:12

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

(KJV)

Rom 3:23-24

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

(KJV)

Eph 2:8-10

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

(KJV)

Illustration: Once a room full of theologians debated the question, 'What distinguishes Christianity from all other religions?'. Some said it was that God came down to earth as a man. But others rightly pointed out that other religions believe that...and many other reasons were rejected. Then the famous Christian author, C.S. Lewis, came in late and they asked him. His simple reply was... 'Oh, easy, it's grace!'

The difference between Grace and Law...

Grace is living a good life because we are loved..... 'I Want to do His will !'

Law is living a good life to be loved!..... 'I Have to do His will!'

(2) FOUR THINGS ABOUT GRACE...

(i) First, Grace is Unmerited Favour.

A boy steals a bicycle from his neighbour and is caught in the act. Justice is that he has to pay for the bicycle and return it. Mercy is that his neighbour forgives him and takes the bicycle back. Grace is the neighbour forgiving the boy and then giving him the bicycle as a free gift!

*Justice is getting what we deserve.
Mercy is not getting what we deserve.
Grace is getting what we don't
deserve!*

Read Romans 3:23-24 again. John Newton wrote 'Amazing grace' having experienced 'unmerited' or 'undeserved' favour. John Newton said there will be three wonders in heaven.... it will be a wonder (1) Who is there, (2) Who is not there and (3) the fact that i'm there!

(ii) Second, Grace Is Not Cheap.

Grace is **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. Christ paid with His life! If we are to be like Christ we too must pay the price to show grace to others.

(iii) Third, It's Not Easy To Believe Someone Who Offers Grace.

Due to:

- (a) Ignorance.**
- (b) Feelings of Condemnation.**

(iv) Fourth, Grace That Is Received Changes One's Life And Behaviour.

One clergyman ridiculed Luther's teaching on Grace by saying 'if that is true then a person could live as they pleased' – Luther replied, 'Indeed! What pleases you?'

Read Romans 6:1- Grace is not an excuse to sin but , if we fully grasp hold on it, should encourage us to sin less and do more for Him out of love and appreciation of what He has done for us.

SECTION TWO: Three Sides Of Grace.

(1) Introduction:

1 Pet 4:10 - "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (KJV)

Manifold grace = many-sided grace. This is summarized in 1 Corinthians 15:10...

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (KJV)

We must:

- (i) Continue in His grace (Acts 13:43)
- (ii) Grow in it (2 Peter 3:18) and
- (iii) Abound in it (2 Cor 8:6-7)..
- (iv)more grace is given to those who walk in humility (James 4:6)

Grace can be **SEEN** in us (Acts 11:23 ; Gal 2:9) – Joyful countenance, peace, lack of undue stress, humility, lack of striving etc...

Grace is given for the purpose of showing it to others (Eph 3:2)

(2) Three Basic Sides Of Grace:

**(i) SAVING GRACE = God's Riches At Christ's Expense.
(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

We saw this side of grace in the previous section.

**(ii) SUFFICIENT GRACE = God's Refreshing And Comforting Embrace
(2 Corinthians 12:9 and 9:8; Hebrews 4:16)**

2 Cor 12:9- "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (NKJ)

**(iii) SERVING GRACE = God's Resources And Corresponding Enabling.
(Hebrews 12:28; Ephesians 3:7-8)**

Heb 12:28 - "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: "(KJV)

Eph 3:7-8 - "Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;" (KJV)

Grace for:

- (a) All **Ministry** (Eph 3:7-8)
- (b) **Miracles** (Acts 14:3);
- (c) **Missions** (Acts 14:26;15:40 and Romans 1:1);
- (d) **Messages** (Col 4:6; Eph 4:29 and Rom 15:15) and
- (e) **Music** (Col 3:16)

Degrees of Grace (Ephesians 4:7)....

- (1) Great Grace (Acts 4:33)
- (2) Abundant Grace (Rom 5:17,20)
- (3) Exceeding Grace (2 Cor 9:14)
- (4) Exceeding Abundant (1 Tim 1:14)

(3) Conclusion: We are to live in God's grace at all times!