



## Grace and Graciousness

### Ephesians 2:1-10

Handout January 27, 2023

Welcome back and here we go!

Next week we start our *Fruit of the Spirit* sermon series, and our first speakers are Wende Watson and Bill Garrison. I am so excited for the Face of Grace Ministry Team.

Tonight, I will speak of the 10<sup>th</sup> fruit! Well, there is not a 10<sup>th</sup> fruit in the list found in Galatians, but, if there were --- it would be *grace*!

- 1) The most \_\_\_\_\_ character quality of a Believer is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ***Ephesians 2:1-10***

God is rich in mercy! He also expects us to be rich in mercy. We have been freely forgiven. Now, we give it to the world.

- 2) *Grace* application = \_\_\_\_\_.

*Grace* really starts there for us. When our fruit is ripe, we will show *grace*. *Grace* shows up in all areas of fruit bearing.

*Grace* is NOT:

- 3a): A \_\_\_\_\_ to sin.

- 3b): An ability to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

No. In fact, *grace* actually compels me to want to NOT sin and to BE a part of.....

In my own life I have experienced both *grace* and lack of *grace*. Just in my checking accounts alone!

We all want *grace* when we have made a mistake --- especially, an unintentional mistake.

- 4) We should be \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

By God's *grace* --- you are ALL mighty men and women of God!

- 5) Often, we don't show \_\_\_\_\_ *grace*!

Our imperfections would cause us to disqualify ourselves.

***1 Corinthians 1:26-28 'For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are... '***

God uses the weak. Paul later says, when I am weak, He is strong!

Some will look for your weakness and when they find it, discount you. There are some people who actively look for my mistakes, and openly accuse in the spiritual realm.

Who are the accusers of the brethren? Often it is other believers.

Who is truly blind there?

Back to the point. Ask yourself: Am I *gracious*?

- Do I need people to act a certain way?
- Do I refuse to forgive?
- Do I hold grudges?
- Do I expect apologies?
- Do I easily let friendships go?
- Do I talk about others?

**NOT GRACIOUS!**

**GRACE:**

- Allows others to fail.
- Accepts weaknesses.
- Understands why we sin.
- Doesn't take things personal.
- Forgives.

As we do communion tonight, I pray you seek God's *grace* to help you become more *gracious*!