



Common Grace

Matthew 5:43-48

Handout March 17, 2023

Welcome back and here we go!

Tonight, we start a four-part series on *Grace*. When we opened Face of Grace, we discussed at length our vision, our mission, and our goals. There were many of things to sort through. Opening a 501c3, non-profit, getting banking set up, finding a location --- all these things came after we did the hard work --- finding a name!

For me, *Grace* had to be in the name. Why? Because our official doctrine here comes from Grace Notes¹. These Notes changed me and allowed me to disciple hundreds of men while incarcerated, and now dozens of people here!

In fact, often I will start people with the Notes on *Grace* and *Faithrest*.

Tonight, we start with *Common Grace*. Next, *Saving Grace*, then *Living Grace* and finally the application - *Showing Grace / Forgiveness*.

Matthew 5:43-48 ' "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

1) Everyone _____ *Common Grace* from God.

What exactly is *GRACE*? Many people say it is "not getting what I deserve and getting what I don't deserve". Others say, "unmerited favor".

Webster says, "unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification".

What exactly is that *assistance*?

2) Application of *grace* is _____.

We will really get into that next week. But, tonight, I want to ask you:

Who is it that you struggle with the most? Who are these enemies, those that spitefully use you or persecute you? We all have thorns in our sides.

3) Jesus says _____ those people.

¹Grace Notes is a ministry of [Austin Bible Church](#), Austin, TX

I know it is not easy. But it is required. If I am going to be the example here, you can bet I will always strive to love, forgive, accept, and include everyone.

Common Grace is common to all people. All mankind.

Matthew 5:43-48

4) Jesus said if you only _____ those that _____ you.....

Where is the reward? Not everyone loves me. Not everyone loves you. What do we do with that?

You treat everyone the same.

Common Grace doesn't seem all that common really ----- does it?

In fact, it seems uncommon that people would continue to persevere with us, or how about us with them?

Romans 5:1-11

5) Christ _____ for everyone!

What grace is not:

- Allowing others to mistreat you
- Returning to dangerous situations
- Staying in a harmful situation
- Allowing mental or emotional abuse.

It's okay to have boundaries. I always advocate strong boundaries.

So, what's tonight's conclusion?

SHOW GRACE!

6) _____ is the most _____
_____ of the Believer!

It is not hard to be kind. You don't have to be right. Keep doing God's work. **Continue to be kind in your mind! Always think good and hopeful thoughts.**

7) *Grace* is a _____ !

You can keep your distance yet think grace. This is totally how restoration happens!

I want you to know I love you --- all of you. Stay encouraged and be kind to one another.....

Next week, *Saving Grace*.