



## Living a Gracious Life

### Ephesians 1:7-8

Handout April 14, 2023

Welcome back and here we go! Part 4 of our series on grace!

Tonight, we will discover the application of grace and the ability to show grace.

Quick overview: ***Ephesians 1:7-8 'In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,'***

1) God's grace \_\_\_\_\_ toward us.

This principle alone teaches us of God's love, attention, affection, in an active state - His love rushing toward us looking to change me and you. We just have to accept it.

From Grace Notes<sup>1</sup>

#### Categories of Grace

1. **Common Grace**, or Grace which is common to all mankind, saved or unsaved, such as the rain which falls on the just and unjust.
2. **Saving Grace**, the "gift of God, lest any man should boast", namely, grace applied to the lost sinner.
3. **Living Grace**, the provision of God the Father for the needs of the believer for the rest of his lifetime. God provides everything that is needed for a prosperous, happy life for any believer who has "tasted grace" and avails himself of "more grace".
4. **Surpassing Grace**, the Grace of God in eternity; what we will receive from God because of salvation; what we will receive from God as crowns or rewards to be laid at the feet of Christ.

2) You are \_\_\_\_\_ in grace!

A person can only give of what they have. You have ample grace and have been forgiven everything. The idea then is that we become *conduits of grace* to the world.

In Luke 7, the rich man gave out of his abundance. You also can give grace.

3) Being \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ is a choice.

We must choose grace over unforgiveness, grace over our desires, grace over shortcomings.

Application of Grace = forgiveness

***Ephesians 2:8-9 'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. '***

Being gracious goes much further than that. What does a gracious person look like?

From Grace Notes<sup>1</sup>

Grace, or graciousness, is the most outstanding quality of the mature believer in Christ. The new believer has "tasted grace". As he grows in Christ, he learns to "think grace"

(outward) rather than thinking pride (inward). He thinks grace in time of doubt, in time of poverty, in time of prosperity, in suffering and pressure, and even in persecution.

The advanced Christian is gracious, forgiving, unassuming. He is uplifting, not depressing. Out of his innermost being flow rivers of living water; he is a conduit that brings grace to a thirsty world.

Being gracious takes work.

4) Graciousness starts with \_\_\_\_\_.

.....accepting people's brokenness and not needing them to meet your standards..... allowing people to be imperfect...

I try to model graciousness here. For the most part, I am told, I do pretty good at it.

When we think of a gracious host or hostess, they invite you in, they make a place for you, they pick up your dishes, they clean your spills without complaining. They actively include you, they listen to you, they magnify your strengths while accepting your weaknesses. They actively love you.

What is a gracious person like? They choose kindness and courtesy over harshness and criticism. Gracious people are tactfully delicate and generous. Being around a gracious person makes us feel better and makes us better!

Webster's definitions gracious: "courteous, kind & pleasant"

How do you know if you are not being gracious?

5) \_\_\_\_\_ sins towards people.

It starts and ends in our thinking. You either think grace or you don't. All actions follow thought!

Don't be a broken cistern!!!!!!

Meaning, if you are the potter's vessel, and he is pouring in to you the words of life and you in turn are pouring out anger, frustration, unforgiveness..... Where is that River of Life?

### **Isaiah 30:18-23**

6) God is \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

The key is becoming gracious yourself.

### **Matthew 6:9-15**

If someone is too loud - forgive them; criticizes you - forgive them; addicted - forgive; depressed - forgive; obnoxious - forgive; bad parent - forgive; bad employee - forgive; or even bad friend - forgive.

"I Got a River of Life"

You are rich ----- now act like it!

Don't just forgive --- actively be gracious!

-Grace Notes are available if anyone wants a copy.

-Next week Christie is speaking. In two weeks, Captain Harry is speaking.

-Then we start a series in 2 Peter.

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