

Grace

Part 1

Praise God. Here we go on a new study series --- Grace.

“Grace Notes”¹ will be our curriculum and I will provide new study notes for each session. So you can download the “Grace Notes” on Grace (11 pages) to compliment these study notes. You will find these on the website. Faceofgrace.biz under “Handouts”.

Why Grace? Grace is the principal by which we have salvation. My degree/diploma is from “Grace Notes” and our church/ministry is *Face of Grace*.

Hopefully as we study and learn and apply grace as a doctrine and truth, we will grow in grace.

Ephesians 2:1-10

=====prayer=====

1) What is grace?

From... “Grace Notes”, page 1

God the Father always thinks grace. Whether He is dealing with nations or individuals, whether he is exercising His divine justice, wrath, love, or mercy, in whatever dispensation or time frame, at all times and in all circumstances, the grace of God influences His thoughts and actions.

The absolute righteousness and justice of God the Father demand perfection in us. But we are “sinners, condemned, unclean.” The Father’s perfect justice demands a just penalty for sin - *“the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”*

But the Father, in His love for us, seeing that we could not meet His standards, sent His Son to bear our penalty so that we *“might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Cor. 5:21) Righteousness was imputed to us on the sole condition of our faith in Jesus Christ, just as *“Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.”* (Gen. 15:6)

God the Father is now able to look upon us as righteous. And He is able to express His love for us in countless ways during our lifetime. The word “grace” is used to refer to God’s giving to us out of His love for us, a giving that is unrestricted because our former condemnation has been removed, our penalty has been paid, God’s righteousness and justice have been satisfied, and we are “in Christ” and share the love that the Father has for His own son.

Mastery of the Bible’s teaching about grace is the most important goal of the Christian way of life. Your productivity as a believer, your ability to function effectively as member of your local church, your effectiveness in the use of your spiritual gifts in reaching out to others are all absolutely dependent on how well you understand and use grace principles. The following are some of the reasons why the subject of grace is so important to every Christian.

- God is always thinking grace.
- God looks upon us as righteous.

2) What does it mean to be a conduit of grace to society?

Forgiveness is the key to grace living.

From..... "Grace Notes", page 3

Application: Forgiveness

The word "forgive" is a Grace word, in the English as well as in the Greek (**charidzomai**). An early meaning in English was "to give or to grant". Then, forgive came to mean "to remit a debt; to give up resentment or claim for requital; to pardon an offense."

All of us are debtors to others, to society as a whole. And we often feel that people owe us many things in our human relationships. We feel we are owed courtesy and consideration. Sometimes we think that we are owed reward or status or promotion in some enterprise, or on the job. We are certainly owed fair treatment, justice, restitution and many other things.

But, many people in America are spiritually, ethically, and morally bankrupt. They simply cannot pay society what they owe! They are thoughtless, selfish, ungracious. What should a Christian do about all of the debts owed to him. Answer: **forgive** them, as Christ forgave you.

A Christian who practices Grace thinking (divine viewpoint) will become a forgiving person. To forgive means "to give up a claim; to cease bearing resentment".

The rich man in Luke 7 was able to forgive the two debtors because he was prosperous. He gave to them out of his prosperity. A person can only give to others out of what God has already provided in the way of prosperity. In terms of money, the principle is "*Let him that stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor, doing with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*"

As a growing Christian, you have many other kinds of prosperity, by the Grace of God. You have intellectual prosperity (divine viewpoint). You have spiritual prosperity (peace with God). You have emotional prosperity (relaxed mental attitude). You have financial prosperity (mastery of details of life). You have social prosperity (stable marriage, stable family life, etc.).

Wherever in your life you find that someone else owes you something, you have the wherewithal to forgive him/[her]! God has forgiven all of us who are absolutely without resources of our own. And He is not expecting or demanding some kind of payment in return for His grace gifts. And we are to be channels of grace to the world. "*Out of your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.*" (John 7:37)

God has forgiven us all who are without resources.

Forgiveness is a gift not a requirement in today's world.

Luke 7:40-42

3) What does it mean to freely forgive?

4) Why is it so difficult to forgive?

We all have the *wherewithal to forgive*, but still something prevents us.

"Grace Notes" teach that graciousness is the most outstanding quality of a believer.

5) What is graciousness?

Forgiveness comes in many forms.....

- Someone is too loud, too talkative.
- Someone complains constantly.
- Someone falsely accuses you.
- Someone lies about you.
- Someone's addiction affects you in many ways.
- Someone is not living up to the standards of what a Christian should act/look like.

6) Who fits this criteria?

Let's pray for the ability to be gracious.

¹Grace Notes is a ministry of [Austin Bible Church](https://www.gracenotes.info/), Austin, TX; <https://www.gracenotes.info/>



Next Tuesday Bible Study - "Common Grace - Grace Part 2"

