

Grace Part 2

Common Grace

Welcome back. Today we continue our *Grace* studies as we look at the four types of *grace*. We start with *Common Grace*.

Remember, we have the actual "Grace Notes" as our curriculum and then we have the study which I create as a learning tool. It is imperative that we understand not only the *grace* we have received but also the *grace* we are to dispense to the world. We are to be conduits of *grace*.

From "Grace Notes"¹ page 6:

So "grace" is the word used in the Bible to refer to all that God is free to do for mankind because of the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice for sins, the work done for us on the cross. Grace means that God has done the work and God receives the "credit", the glory. Man, who is unable to produce acceptable works, receives the free benefits of God's work. Grace means that man has received from God that which he has not earned or deserved; because nothing that we are and nothing that we have is sufficient to qualify us for any of what the Lord gives to us or does for us.

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.

1) What is *common grace*?

Matthew 5:43-48

So God has given to all mankind --- *grace*. That is what makes it common.

2) What are some things God provides to all people?

So if God is our example and Jesus was our example, can you think of any time where it appears Jesus does not show grace?

Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus instructs us to love --- show grace to our enemies.

See "Grace Notes" page 6, column 2

Common Grace

Every human being is born under the complete watchfulness of God. God provides each person with an awareness of the existence of God and with a bona fide opportunity to exercise a choice with respect to God.

In grace, God has provided many blessings common to all people, whether they are Christians or not. It rains on the just and unjust alike; and Bible history shows us that material prosperity is often given to unbelievers as a demonstration of God's grace to all people.

God has provided divine institutions for the protection and preservation of the human race, and everyone profits from this. The Lord intends that people live under conditions of freedom and morality.

The institution of volition makes it possible, among other things, for everyone to have a free will choice in all spiritual matters. The institutions of marriage and family provide for the orderly preservation of the human race and the growth of families in a protected, nurturing environment. The institution of nations gives a simple structure to society so that personal freedom and individual morality are preserved. The topical notes on divine institutions provide more information on this subject.

God the Father provides gospel information to any person who shows any positive inclination toward Him when the individual become conscious of God. And God the Holy Spirit makes the gospel clear to the unbeliever so that he can accept Christ if he wants to.

Meanwhile, by grace God withholds His judgment and wrath from mankind. He is long suffering, giving everyone ample opportunity to repent or change his mental attitude toward Christ.

Romans 1:18-22

Acts 17:22-30

Psalms 9:16

Ecclesiastes 3:9-11

The first thing we all need to know is that God gives everyone the chance to acknowledge Him and know Him.

3) Why do people not believe?

I mean really what is the reason people never leave *common grace* to transition into *saving grace*? That is a discussion that we could talk about at great length.

Acts 17:22-27

Really, that is very hard..... if they know of God and choose a different route. How many people do we know that still have not chosen God?

Luke 6:27-38

These are the companion verses to **Matthew 5:43-48**

4) What part of *Luke 6:27-38* is the hardest for you?

Common grace --- not so common --- often from Believers. We know God.....

- *Grace* --- Most Outstanding Quality
- *Grace* ---Living (conduit) Water

What prevents you? (private personal question)

5) Where --- to whom ---- when --- do you need to show more grace?

As we grow in grace the most basic step is to give grace. God continually gives us more than we deserve and He just asks that we do the same for others.....

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

Next Tuesday Bible Study - "Saving Grace - Grace Part 3"