

Grace Part 5

Distortions of Grace

Welcome back and here we go!

Wow, who knew *grace* was such a broad subject! We have covered a lot of ground and hopefully, you are getting a grasp on the width - length - depth and height of the *Doctrine of Grace*.

Let's review:

1. *Grace* - Application Forgiveness
2. *Common Grace* - Grace availed to all mankind
3. *Saving Grace*
4. *Living Grace*

OK, do you have a handle on all that?

1a) Name one thing that happens at the moment of salvation.

1b) Name one *grace* gift that is for your lifetime!

There is an additional type of *grace* that we won't spend a lot of time on that is called "*surpassing grace*". *Surpassing grace* entails all that God does for us after earth.....

.....Without studying this,

2) What are your *surpassing grace* gifts?

1 Corinthians 9:25 'And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. '

Okay, let's get to our study. ☺

3) How is *grace* distorted?

From "Grace Notes" DISTORTIONS OF GRACE

As you can well imagine, Satan's main personal task on this earth is to distort what the Bible teaches about grace. There are two basic ways to distort or pervert the idea of grace (taking it to mean or imply something that it does not). First, grace is sometimes taken to mean that is permissible to sin. Thus, grace is used as an excuse for licentiousness, emphasizing overt sins. This is always condemned by the Word of God. **Rom. 6:1, 2; 1 John 1:9 to 2:1; Jude 4.**

God never excuses sin. I would say that if a person willfully sins and says “I sin and it doesn’t matter to God or to my salvation”, I wonder if that person is truly saved. Further..... *grace* does not remove consequences.

Then, grace is sometimes taken as permission to be lazy, especially to skip Bible study. This emphasizes sins of omission. But this idea violates all of the Bible’s commands to study, to be diligent, to be oriented to grace. **Heb. 6:11, 12; 2 Pet. 1:5, 10; 1 Cor. 15:10**

We are always to grow in grace and in maturity.

Romans 11:6 'And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.'

4) What is legalism?

DISTORTIONS OF GRACE (continued)

The greatest enemy of grace is legalism. Grace and legalism are mutually exclusive, **Rom. 11:6**. Grace means that God does the “work” and receives the glory (credit) for it. Legalism means that man does the work and receives the credit. Notes are available on the doctrine of legalism.

Grace depends solely on the character of God and entirely excludes human ability, human merit, human achievement, etc. Legalism, however, depends on human activity and ability.

Grace and legalism have opposite emphasis. Grace emphasizes what God does in the soul of man, free of charge. The production and blessings in the Christian’s life are byproducts of what is first provided by God without cost. Legalism excludes the mental attitude and emphasizes overt activity for the purpose of gaining credit with God and impressing men.

Galatians 2:21 and 5:2-4

Legalism hinders a person from accepting Christ as Savior, **Gal. 2:21**.
Legalism neutralizes the believer in the Christian way of life, **Gal. 5:2 to 4**.

===== Very powerful statements =====

DISTORTIONS OF GRACE (continued)

God is perfect, and His plan is perfect. Man’s work is excluded from the plan of God because man is imperfect. If man were permitted to make a contribution to the plan of God, the plan would no longer be perfect; it would be no stronger than its weakest link. Grace eliminates all considerations of human merit.

Grace, then, in the antithesis of human arrogance. An awareness of the full meaning of grace is a giant step toward true humility. Four types of pride are noted in those who are not oriented to Grace:

- There is pride on the part of the believer who rejects the eternal security of grace. He thinks his sins are greater than the plan of God. He thinks that grace is not sufficient.
- There is pride in the believer who falls apart during suffering. He thinks that his pressures and adversities are greater than the provision and protection of God.
- There is pride in the believer who enters into a life of false spirituality through legalism or religion. He thinks his personal works impress God and are greater than His plan.
- There is pride in the emotional believer who thinks feelings and emotions are greater and more real than the Word of God or the grace of God.

5) Which type of pride do you struggle with?

Pride affects everyone in some way. To say it doesn't is pride itself.

6a) How does sin affect your walk with God?

6b) How does grace help?

Let's pray.

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



Next Tuesday Bible Study - - "Orientation to Grace" - Grace Part 6

