

## Grace Part 6

### “Well I Never”

Okay then, here we go again. Back at *Grace*! Today, we study orientation to *grace* and victory over pride. Why pride? ...Because it interferes with our ability to forgive. Have you ever said, “Well I never”?

There are many things I would “NEVER” do, but there are also many things that I “HAVE” done.

Before we start...

1) How does pride interfere with *grace* thinking?

Rule #1: *Grace* flows from thoughts..... it depends on how I feel about or think about a sin / idea / situation / circumstance.

From “Grace Notes”

- 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.

#### HOW TO GROW IN GRACE

##### Victory over the Sin of Pride

As we have seen, one of the greatest enemies of Grace is native human pride, one of the greatest evils since the fall of man. It is the worst of the mental attitude sins because it amounts to blasphemy. “I will be my own God.” Remember the times that Satan said “I will...” Grace opposes human pride in every way.

There is great pressure toward arrogance in the United States. Our country has a successful, affluent society with many opportunities for achievement and rewards, from childhood on. Status and upward mobility are available to everyone, and it’s easy to get the big head, to think that we have accomplished something, to have the “self made man complex.” Victory over this very subtle and devastating mental attitude sin requires a thorough understanding of the doctrine of grace.

The first step in victory over pride (and growth in grace thinking) is to be aware that pride is part of everyone's sin nature. No one starts out thinking grace!!

The second step is to pray for victory here and to ask the Lord for wisdom in the matter.

The third step is to confess sinful pride when you recognize it in yourself.

*Grace* is a mental attitude. We must learn to *think grace*.

2) What is something you would never do?

Continuing from "Grace Notes"

There are many symptoms of pride. Indignation at another person's behavior, mistakes, shortcomings, lack of discipline, or failure to measure up is an indicator of self-righteousness, whose basis is pride. "Well, I never..." these are key pride words. *Romans 2:13* commands that we should not judge others as if we ourselves had no areas of weakness. Self-promotion and the demotion of other people is pride, it is the failure to think grace.

Another symptom of pride is lack of forgiveness, the holding of grudges. Pride prevents a forgiving attitude. How many marriages break up because of this? How many people would be happy on the job instead of miserable if they could just forgive the boss or a fellow worker for doing something dumb? Everybody does dumb things, but failure to forgive is pride. Other indicators of pride are complaining, griping, maligning and gossiping. Most of the sins of the tongue have their roots in pride.

3) Why are sins of the tongue lack of *grace*?

Continuing from "Grace Notes"

When you see sinful pride in yourself, confess it! If you see it in others, pray!

The fourth step toward progress in grace thinking is to "grow in grace"; actually this is the first and last step toward maturity. Grace thinking overcomes pride, and the symptoms of sinful pride will start to disappear. A person who was at first totally filled with himself [herself] will find that as he [she] grows in Christ the symptoms will show up only under extreme pressure. At that time, they will be recognized and dealt with immediately to minimize the ill effects on himself [herself] and others.

4) How do we learn to make concessions for behaviors we cannot stand?

You know, God cannot stand any of our “*grace-less*” behaviors. The Lord uses phrases like “stench”, “lukewarm”, “vomit out”, “sins of the flesh”.

Continuing from “Grace Notes”

### Grace Orientation

The first step in grace orientation is understanding the grace of God, the purpose of this study. The second step is to appropriate the grace of God through the use of the techniques of Christian living seen in the following sections. Each of the techniques described briefly below has a complete discussion in the Bible Notes Library studies relating to each topic. [see complete “Grace Notes” handout called “Grace”]

5) What is the most important thing you have learned about *grace*?

### Orientation to Grace - continuing from “Grace Notes”

Grace orientation gives the ability to look at people and see them as God sees them. It is the ability to let them live their lives as unto the Lord, and trusting God to make His way clear to them. This technique lets people make mistakes without your judging them. It enables you to accept criticism without hurt or bitterness. It enables you to “esteem other better than yourself”, to “do nothing through strife or vainglory.” You will be a “conduit of grace.”

*Grace orientation* simply means I have arranged my thoughts and life around *grace*. I am more apt to forgive and pray than to talk about and hold grudges.

6a) What is an honest evaluation of your *grace* meter?

6b) Where can you begin to practice and therefore grow in *grace* now?

Let’s pray

<sup>1</sup>Grace Notes is a ministry of, Austin, TX; <https://www.gracenotes.info/>



Next Tuesday Bible Study - “Confession of Sin / Filling of the Holy Spirit” - Grace Part 7

