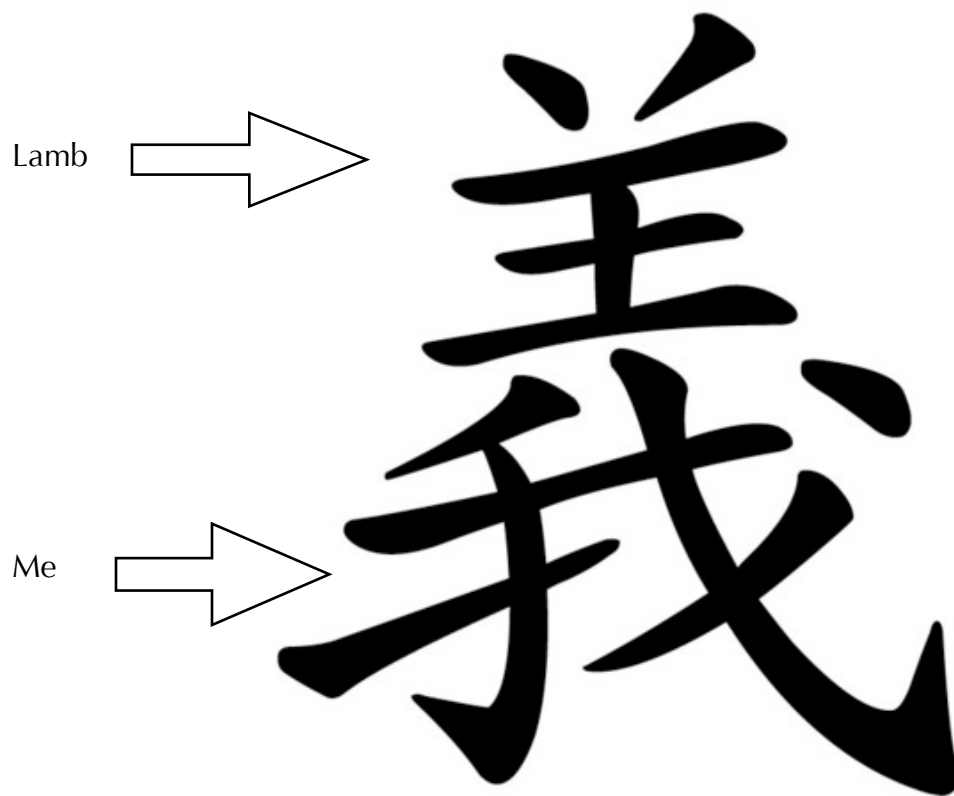




Attendee Workbook





This is the Chinese symbol for righteousness. The bottom character represents a person (me) while the top character represents a lamb. We are covered by the lamb of God.

It is in a sense, a picture of grace.

# Grace

Week 1 - Grace in the Old Testament



# Engage

Based on the title of this series, Grace, what do you anticipate getting out of this series of lessons?

---

---

---

---

---

---

How would you describe grace?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

## Week 1 - Grace in the Old Testament



# Develop

### Introduction

Simply put, grace is the theme of the Bible. Had man not found favor in God's sight after the fall, we would have no need for the word of God. There would be no need for the story of God's chosen people, for there would be none. We would have no need for the prophets to foretell of the Messiah. The books of wisdom would be worthless, for all would be vanity. We would have no need of the story of Jesus, for we would have no blood sacrifice to atone for sin. We would have no need of the epistles because the church would not be the bride of Christ, and we would have no need for the Revelation of John, for the final sentence would have already been determined. Grace is the reason we have hope. Grace is the reason we have life. Grace is the reason we have power. Simply put, anything and everything we have access to that is "good" is only by God's Grace.

### Outline.

1. The first act of grace
2. Defining grace
3. The need for grace revealed
4. From a covenant of works to a covenant of grace

### The First Act of Grace

We might think that the first act of grace was after the fall in Genesis, but even before sin entered into the world by man God had ordained an act of grace.

#### **Revelations 13:8**

*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

#### **1 Peter 1:18-20**

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

*Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

# Grace

## Week 1 - Grace in the Old Testament



God had a plan for you and me from the very beginning. While Jesus (the lamb) was appointed to die at a certain time in history, the plan was ordained before the foundation of the world. God knew whom He would call. The grace offered to everyone in the Old Testament was in assurance of the sacrifice to come.

### Defining Grace

#### Strong's

Grace: Hebrew: *chen*

**Gracious:** Subjective: *Kindness, Favor.* Objective: *Beauty - favor, grace (-ious), pleasant, precious, [well] favoured*

#### Merriam Webster Encyclopedia

*Unmerited divine assistance given humans for their regeneration or sanctification*

#### Nelson's Bible Dictionary

*Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves.*

When finding the meaning of a word, the textbook definition is only partially helpful. It is just as important to see how the word is used and in what context. The meaning of Biblical grace will be revealed as we progress through the next five weeks.

Here is a quote from the book *Costly Grace*. "One way to distinguish the difference between mercy and grace, is that grace costs while mercy does not. Mercy says, 'I won't press charges.'" Grace says, 'I not only won't press charges, I'll pay for your rehab program.' (Walker 33)"

God's grace isn't just Him forgiving us, it's Him reaching out to save us, covering our sin for us, and empowering us to live grace-filled lives.

### Adam Sins, The need for Grace Revealed

God loved Adam and Eve. God loved to walk with them in the cool of the Garden of Eden. The name Eden signifies delight or pleasure. It was in this garden that God made a conditional covenant with Adam. Adam could eat of any tree in the garden except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The consequence for disobedience would be death. This could be called a covenant of works. Adam had a work to do, if he broke the law, he would stand in condemnation. His faith did not play a factor, simply his ability to keep the law.

# Grace

## Week 1 - Grace in the Old Testament



God allowed the tempter to enter in the form of a serpent. Eve ate of the forbidden tree. When Adam ate of the tree as well, the covenant was instantly broken and man became aware of his sin and nakedness. True to His word, Adam became mortal and would eventually die physically.

However, in His love and grace, God did not leave Adam hopeless. Almost immediately after Adam sins, God promises mankind a savior by way of prophecy:

### **Genesis 3:14-15**

*And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou [art] cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Let's examine verse 14.

Note that God pronounces judgment on the devil first before pronouncing judgment on Adam and Eve.

Enmity means hatred or hostility. God in his grace and mercy puts conflict between man and Satan. This conflict can only be resolved when man realizes his need for a savior. The sly and devious tempting of the Devil may sound sweet for a season, but to those whom God calls it will never satisfy. To those called of God, the whisperings of the devil will always reek of the serpent's poison. The supplications of the Devil will never fill the void that is meant for Jesus.

God designed it so we must be an \_\_\_\_\_ of the devil and a \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

There is a reason nothing on this earth satisfies; the Devil cannot satisfy. God has put enmity between man and him. This is why Satan is known as the great deceiver, he may imitate the things of God by producing counterfeits, but nothing the Devil produces will ever satisfy. The danger arises when the Devil keeps man occupied with his counterfeits, searching for fulfillment, moving from one lie to the next and never coming to experience the only true friend, Jesus. Only He can satisfy.

# Grace



## Week 1 - Grace in the Old Testament

### Discussion:

What are the most common themes you see on the cover of magazines when checking out at the grocery line? Don't hold back. Do these themes reveal a culture that is satisfied or searching? Explain using specific examples.

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Discussion:

Self-help is a billion dollar industry and growing. Why is that? Is there a danger that can come from over-reliance on one's self? Explain

---

---

---

---

---

---

Now verse 15 ( *it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*)

The Devil will gain what seems like a temporary victory over Christ when Christ is crucified. But this victory is not fatal. Satan only wounds the flesh. Christ rises from the dead, conquering death and hell. In doing so He destroys Satan's power and lordship over mankind. A serpent's poison is stored in its head. A blow to the head is fatal.

God's covenant of salvation would free man from the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ caused by obeying Satan.

## From a covenant of works to a covenant of grace

Even though we often think of the Old Testament in terms of works and the New Testament in terms of grace, the promise God made to Adam in Genesis was one of grace. God put man in the garden and gave him a work to do. Man failed to do that work. If perfect man could not maintain perfect works, how much less could sinful man? As we will see, both the Old Testament and New Testament are covenants of God's grace.



# Grace

## Week 1 - Grace in the Old Testament



There is only one covenant of grace, that covenant is just expressed in two different stages: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of grace is \_\_\_\_\_ one way in the Old Testament and another way in the New Testament.

The good news of redemption begins not in Matthew 1:1, but in Genesis 3:15. Every person that was called of God after Adam was under the grace of God. The faith of men was counted as righteousness before the law, during the law, and still is today.

The lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world is our reconciliation. For we must be reconciled back to God and that cannot be done by any power of our own. The story of the Bible is one of God reconciling his people back to Himself.

**Discussion Question:**

If only God has the power to destroy the devil, and God promised that the seed of man would be the one to destroy the Devil, what (or who) must that seed of man be?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**1 Corinthians 15:45**

*And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.*

It is vitally important to realize the meaning in what God promised in Genesis 3:15. The Old Testament is types and shadows of things to come. Whenever we read the Old Testament, it should be read in light of Jesus Christ, in light of the covenant of grace.

**John 5:39**

*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

Who was Jesus talking to here? The Jews. What was the scripture they had? The Old Testament. The Old Testament testifies (bears witness) of Jesus Christ.





# Grace

## Week 1 - Grace in the Old Testament



### Conclusion

Underserved favor is given to man from the beginning. God’s favor towards man was not because of anything we did. It is because of who He is. God is Love. And God was Love from the very beginning. Knowing this simple truth will help set the foundation as we move forward in this series.

**Discussion:**

Discuss how the following quote affects how you live:  
*“You are loved by your maker not because you try to please him and succeed, or fail to please him and apologize, but because he wants to be your father.” ~ Max Lucado*

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Discussion:**

God pursues those He calls. Share some examples in scripture (Old or New Testament) that show God pursuing His people.

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

## Week 1 - Grace in the Old Testament



# DO

During this series try keeping a prayer journal. Write down prayers for the things you are struggling with as well as the prayers you pray for the victories received. You can use this book as your journal by writing in the Do section and in the margins, by an actual journal or just use a small note pad. As you pray and seek God throughout this series focus on His grace in your life and extending His grace to others.

# Grace

Week 2- Grace and the Blood



# Engage

How much money would it take for you to quit your job and pursue your greatest life ambition to the fullest? What would that ambition be?

---

---

---

---

---

---

Describe a time that you experienced the grace of God through another person.

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

## Week 2- Grace and the Blood

# Develop



### Introduction

Last week we talked about the grace of God being initiated from the moment man sinned. Since leaving Eden, God has pursued man and called him unto Himself. When God call people, it is only because of His grace. Remember, mankind transgressed the law and every man and woman after Adam is under judgment. As we progress through the Old Testament, we see God’s plan take shape.

Our outline tonight will cover three main points:

- 1. God’s covenant with Abram was purely an act of grace
- 2. God’s promise is greater than the law
- 3. Blood sacrifices

God calls Abraham in Genesis. The majority of the Bible is really a story about God fulfilling the promise He had made to Abraham. The descendants of Abraham that God called eventually became referred to as the Jews, or Israel. This foundation is extremely important to us today as the Bible says the Gentiles have been “grafted into” the spiritual body of Israel, God’s chosen people.

Throughout this study it will be beneficial to remember that the Old Testament is types and shadows of things to come in the New Testament.

Before we jump into our first topic, please discuss this question with your group.

**Discussion:**

After the fall in the garden, did God owe anything to Adam and Eve?

---



---



---



---



---



---

### God’s covenant with Abram was purely an act of grace

God elected Israel to be God’s people. This was not because of Israel’s righteousness, but because of God’s free choice.



# Grace

## Week 2- Grace and the Blood



### **Deuteronomy 7:7-8**

*The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: <sup>8</sup> But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

It's important to reiterate that grace was given before the law. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and God would be his God forever. Abraham didn't ask for this. It was God who initiated. The promise was by God's grace.

### **Genesis 17:3-8**

*<sup>3</sup> And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, <sup>4</sup> As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. <sup>6</sup> And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. <sup>7</sup> And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. <sup>8</sup> And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*

Abraham had two sons. God chose Isaac to obtain the promise instead of Ishmael. Did Isaac do some work to obtain the promise? He never had the chance. He hadn't even been born yet. God selected him in His grace. If the works could have obtained the grace, the promise would no longer be a promise.

### **Romans 9:7-13**

*Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. <sup>8</sup> That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. <sup>9</sup> For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. <sup>10</sup> And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; <sup>11</sup> (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) <sup>12</sup> It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. <sup>13</sup> As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*

Those called of God are called because of his divine \_\_\_\_\_, not because of their \_\_\_\_\_.

# Grace

## Week 2- Grace and the Blood



God gives grace to whom He alone chooses, “not of works, but of him that calleth”.

**Romans 9:16**

*16* So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

**Discussion:**

How do you know today if you are called of God? (Hint, the answer is in 1 Cor 12:3 and 1 John 4:15).

---

---

---

---

---

---

God’s promise to Abram was maintained through the miraculous birth of Isaac, God choosing Jacob over Esau, Jacob’s 12 sons, surviving famine in the land of Canaan, hundreds of years of bondage in Egypt, and finally deliverance from bondage and the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai.

God’s promise is greater than the law.

We can sometimes make the mistake of thinking the law is the central theme of the Old Testament. And while the law is very important and a good thing, the law, prophets, and books of wisdom in the Old Testament are all written in light of the promises made by God to his chosen people.

**Galatians 3:16-24**

*16* Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. *17* And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. *18* For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

It wasn’t until 430 years after the promise to Abraham that God gave the law. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and the many lesser regulations for a Godly society at Mt. Sinai. But the law never replaced the promise. Nor did the fulfillment of the promise depend on keeping the law. God always keeps His word.



# Grace

## Week 2- Grace and the Blood



The law pointed out sin. It made it clear what acts were transgressions. Was the law bad then? By no means. Paul states it this way.

### **Romans 7:7,12,13**

*What shall we say then? [Is] the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*

The law not only set Israel apart, but also made them realize their need for a savior.

## Blood Sacrifices

Next week we are going to be talking about Jesus Christ. When talking about Jesus and grace, the topic of blood sacrifices is very important in helping us understand just how deep the love and grace of God really is.

When man broke the law in the Garden of Eden, he stood condemned. The punishment was death and he was guilty. Life would have to be taken. Through blood God gave us a way to make atonement for our souls.

### **Leviticus 17:11**

*<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

God required animal sacrifices to provide a temporary covering for sin.

A **sacrifice** is something precious that is offered up for a reason.

**Atonement** means satisfaction that is given for a wrong or injury.

It's through blood – the taking of life – that we are reconciled back to God.

\_\_\_\_\_ life in the place of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bible states that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.

# Grace

## Week 2- Grace and the Blood



**Hebrews 9:22**

*22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

**Discussion:**

Who in the Bible sacrificed the first animals to cover sin?

---

---

---

---

---

---

People were sacrificing to God before the giving of the law.

Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to God. Abel brought fruit, Cain brought the firstborn of his flock. God has respect for Cain’s offering. (Genesis 4)

After the flood receded, Noah took from the animals he had saved on the arc and sacrificed them to God. (Genesis 8)

And when the law was given, the sacrificial system was given. This study is not meant to get into the details or procedures of the sacrificial system, but there are some important points to note regarding the burnt offering. As we go through these points, remember that the law was types and shadows of things to come.

- The offered animal had to be spotless
- The animal was offered up freely.
- The person making the sacrifice would lay his hands on the head in order to identify with the sacrifice.
- The person making the sacrifice would kill the animal himself or herself.

The animals did no wrong. The animals were not guilty. This is why they died in the place of the one performing the sacrifice – the guilty one. The animals were only a temporary sacrifice, which is why they had to be offered over and over.

One \_\_\_\_\_ life in the place of a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

The law and the offering of sacrifices were types and shadows of the promised grace in Genesis 3:15.





# Grace

## Week 2- Grace and the Blood



### **Galatians 3:23**

*<sup>24</sup> Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

### **Discussion:**

What parallels do you see between the Old Testament burnt offering and Jesus Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

## Week 2- Grace and the Blood



# DO

This week read Genesis 15:1-18. As you read the passage pray about what God wants you to see in the interaction between Him and Abraham. Think about how this applies to your life. Reread this passage at least once if not more and meditate on it for the whole week. What does it mean to be “counted righteous” is there a passage in the New Testament that talks about this experience with Abraham? Write in your prayer journal any revelations that come.

# Grace

Week 3- Jesus is Grace



# Engage

What do you think you do better than most people you know? Some examples would be baking, cooking, swimming, basketball, puzzles, teaching, singing, playing an instrument, graphic design, sales etc. Why do you consider yourself better than most people?

---

---

---

---

---

---

When do you feel is your most productive time of the day? Are you a morning person or a night owl? Or maybe you feel most energetic at a some point during the day. Is it always the same time or does it vary?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

Week 3- Jesus is Grace

# Develop



## Introduction

Jesus is the embodiment of grace. It is through Jesus that we find redemption; in His blood we have the power to overcome the sins of our flesh. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus did what the law could not, it justifies us. The penalty of the law was taken in full by Jesus and His grace covers our transgressions. This is why we talked so much about blood sacrifices in week 2. We said that the Old Testament was types and shadows of things to come, those sacrifices served as the precursor to the ultimate sacrifice that would satisfy the wrath of God.

As we continue this series on Grace, we will look at the life of Jesus to gain a deeper appreciation for all the His grace gives us. We will look at three things in this week study.

1. Jesus lived a perfect life as a man
2. He died for our transgressions
3. He rose for our justification

## Jesus lived a perfect life

### **1 Peter 2:21-22**

*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

Jesus lived a sinless life because He was full of the grace of God. That is an important thing to remember as we go forward. It was by grace that Jesus was perfect.

It's also important to remember that He was without sin. This is what made His death an acceptable sacrifice. Yet so often we miss the fact that it was grace that empowered our Lord and Savior as He walked this earth.

# Grace

## Week 3- Jesus is Grace



**John 1:14**

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

We will examine this idea of grace being power more in week 5, but for now let’s focus on the fact that the perfect life of Jesus was a picture of grace and it was by Jesus that we have access to it. Later John writes that the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus (John 1:17).

\_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of grace.

Paul writing in the book of Hebrews also talks about Jesus being sinless. Jesus had to be sinless and without blemish in order to be our propitiation. Jesus being our propitiation means he appeased the requirement of death that resulted from the sin of Adam.

He was tempted just like we are, he experienced our grief our sorrow and all manner of problems but remained without sin.

**Hebrews 4:14-15**

*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. 15. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession.*

When a sin offering was made in the Old Testament it had to be without blemish. It had to be perfect. In order for Jesus to bare the sins of you and me He had to remain without sin. When John the Baptist saw Jesus he cried “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”. Jesus was completely obedient to the will of the Father and that, in short, is what made Him perfect.

**Discussion:**

How does Jesus being perfect and Jesus being obedient correlate, and what do you think that means for your life?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

## Week 3- Jesus is Grace



Jesus died for our transgressions

### **Isaiah 53:5**

*But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

All of scripture points to Jesus. It is all there for one reason, to teach us about the life given so that we who are dead in our sins can be brought back to life. We were condemned, we were transgressors of the law, but from wounded hands redemption fell liberating us from the chains of sin.

Without the shed blood of Jesus there would be no remission from sin. It is by his blood that we are justified (Romans 5:9). The law told us what was sin, but it couldn't save us. It told us what is wrong, but didn't give us the power to overcome what was wrong. Jesus did do that for us, He condemned sin by his death.

### **Romans 8:3**

*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*

Because Jesus overcame and \_\_\_\_\_ sin, by Him we have the \_\_\_\_\_ to do the same.

The apostle Paul connects the sacrifices of the Old Testament with the death of Jesus in the book of Hebrews.

### **Hebrews 9:11-15**

*But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12. Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us]. 13. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14. How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15. And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

# Grace

## Week 3- Jesus is Grace



Jesus' work as a mediator is fundamentally accomplished at His death. Time, good works, apologies, or any other measurement would not be sufficient to cover sin. Blood (life) was required and blood was given.

Everything that was owed was paid on the cross. If we have his blood applied to our lives, then sin cannot condemn us. We are covered then by His grace. Jesus did the work for us and we simply accept it.

**Discussion:**

If you were talking to someone who didn't know Jesus, how would you explain the idea of Jesus's death making life available for them?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

For the rest of this study we are going to talk about our justification by the resurrection of Jesus. As important as it was for Jesus to lay down His life for us, it was just as important for Him to rise up. Without His resurrection death would not have been conquered and sin would not have been defeated. The hope and beauty of Christ's death is found in His resurrection.

### Jesus rose for our justification

**Romans 4:24-25**

*But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25. Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

The resurrection has an essential place in our redemption because it demonstrates God's satisfaction with the work on the cross, proving that it was in fact a perfect sacrifice made by One who remained perfect, even though bearing the sin of the world.

The resurrection is \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ work of Jesus.



# Grace

## Week 3- Jesus is Grace



**Romans 5:16-17**

*And not as [it was] by one that sinned, [so is] the gift: for the judgment [was] by one to condemnation, but the free gift [is] of many offences unto justification. 17. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

Death entered into the world through Adam's sin resulting in our condemnation, but through the work of Jesus abundant grace is offered and we are justified. He took on the sins of the world and buried them in His tomb and rose free of those trespasses so that we could walk in newness of life.

This encapsulates the whole essence of the gospel. The good news of Jesus was not just that He died for our sins, but that he rose again for our justification. You and I are free from the condemnation of death. We are free from the power of sin governing our lives. We have been given the free gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Discussion:**

Do you believe that Jesus died for every sin ever committed? Why or why not? Does this mean that everyone is justified by the grace of God?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Discussion:**

What does it mean to you to be justified?

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Grace

Week 3- Jesus is Grace



## DO

This week look for opportunities to extend the grace of God to others. Be intentional. Pray to God for direction on how you can be used by Him to bless someone else and act on it. It may be as simple as overlooking the disrespect someone showed you by treating them with respect anyway. It maybe by giving a couple of dollars to a person in need or in may be in fixing a meal for someone that you know could use it. Don't limit it to these suggestions, let God run wild with your imagination and see where it takes you.

# Grace

Week 4 - Grace and Works



# Engage

If you had to give up Internet access, phone service, T.V., or your car for a month which one would you choose and why. Note: If you do not have something on this list you can not use that as your answer. i.e. I don't have a car so I would choose to give up that.

---

---

---

---

---

---

What talent do you wish you had? Is it singing, the ability to play an instrument, to be athletic, etc. Why do you want that talent?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

Week 4 - Grace and Works

# Develop



## Introduction

Grace and works, to many people these words seem in opposition to one another. Some approach them as an either/or idea. Hopefully as we study this topic we will see the harmony of the two. Grace is what saves us and no amount of good works could do that. But as we will see the grace that saves us, saves us so that we can do good works. There should be total agreement in the works in our life and the grace in our life. Here is what we will be covering

1. We are saved unto good works
2. Jesus makes our works good
3. The love of God is the motivation of these works

## We are saved unto good works

### ***Ephesians 2:8-10***

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: 9. Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Let's be clear about something from the start. We cannot do enough good things (good works) to earn our salvation. It is by grace and grace alone that we are saved from our unrighteousness. As we see here Jesus created us unto GOOD works.

If we were all honest with ourselves we would probably have to admit that we tend to bounce back and forth between trying to work really hard for the gospel to prove our worth to God and being lazy and allowing sin in our life because we are covered by grace. It's not that we are always in one state or the other, but if we are honest we could recognize this happening in our life from time to time.

We should have good works in our life, that's what we were created for. It's just not our ticket to heaven.

# Grace

## Week 4 - Grace and Works



Good works are a \_\_\_\_\_ of our salvation not the \_\_\_\_\_ of it.

The church in Galatia had a hard time with this idea when Paul wrote to them. They had begun teaching that in order to be saved a person must keep the law. Paul corrects that idea.

### **Galatians 3:3-4**

*This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 4. Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

Our flesh can never justify us, only grace through our faith.

What was happening here still happens today in churches. It may not be in keeping the law per se, but in keeping of the rules. We make rules every bit as important as the grace of God. We say if you don't do X then you can't be saved. This is called legalism, a set of rules to follow in order to be a good, saved, Christian. That's not to say there are not things we should or should not do or that rules are not necessary. The scriptures do give us some guidelines that will show if we are in the faith or not.

\_\_\_\_\_ will sound like legalism if we are \_\_\_\_\_ grace.

This is not a license to not follow rules. Every organization has rules and in order for a group of people to be productive they all need to agree. The bible does tell us to submit to one another and to follow our leadership. The rules don't save us, but if we are saved we follow the rules to the extent it doesn't choke out the word of God.

In some ways it is a measure of how we handle success. Most of us are good at falling into the grace of God when we sin, but somehow when things are going well we tend to want to take credit for the success. How we handle the good works that God does through us, is every bit as important and relying on his grace in our time of sin. Do we think we are good because we kept the rules, or because God worked through us. There is an important distinction.

# Grace

## Week 4 - Grace and Works



**Discussion:**

How would you explain the difference in being saved unto good works and trying to be saved by our works?

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Jesus makes our works good

As we go into the second section of our study, think about the statement “Jesus makes our works good”. Can we of our own accord do godly things? This is what Paul said about himself in Romans

**Romans 7:18**

*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not.*

Nothing about our natural self is good and so if there is nothing good in us, but we have good works they must be generated from a source other than ourselves. In verse 25 of this chapter Paul says “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”. He recognized the source of anything good that came out of him.

Paul was really familiar with works. He worked hard at being a Pharisee. In fact in the letter to the church in Galatia he said he had outworked his contemporaries and was zealous of the traditions of his fathers (Galatians 1:14).

In an effort to try to please God he worked hard, but his works were of his flesh not based on the grace that Jesus offers.



# Grace

## Week 4 - Grace and Works



If we are his workmanship as we read in Ephesians, it means He is the potter and we are the clay. We are just the yielded vessel allowing the Spirit of God to work through us to perform Godly works. When Paul preached at Mars Hill in Athens he said it this way.

**Acts 17:28**

*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

In him we *live, move and have our being*. Jesus creates the good works in us, so how could we think that it saves us or that it is something we should brag about?

Walking in grace is \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit to direct you, creating good works \_\_\_\_\_ you.

Most of us want to be good people and that isn't a problem as long as it doesn't take the place of our reliance on the Holy Spirit. The thing we have to know is that being Godly will not always make us appear to be good to those who don't like what we stand for.

**Discussion:**

Is there a difference between a good person and a Godly person? Could doing something of God ever conflict with what is generally considered good?

---

---

---

---

---

---

We must give up any illusions we have that following Jesus is about becoming a good person. There is only one goal and that is to abandon our own life and surrender to the life of Jesus. The sooner you and I embrace this concept and stop trying to impress Jesus with all that we do, the sooner we can have the work of God be magnified in us.

# Grace

## Week 4 - Grace and Works



The love of God as motivation for good works

Most of us can probably quote several scriptures about love. We might think of John 3:16 “for God so loved the world” or Matt 22:39 “love thy neighbor as thyself”, but is it the motivation, the driving force behind everything that we do? You may be familiar with 1 Corinthians 13, often called the love chapter, but I want us to focus on the first three verses of that chapter as it relates to the works in our life.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become [as] sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2. And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3. And though I bestow all my goods to feed [the poor], and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.*

These are bold and very telling words written by Paul to the church in Corinth. The list is pretty impressive: speaking with tongues of angels, prophecy, understanding mysteries, having all knowledge, feeding the poor and even martyrdom, but everything on the list is nothing without Gods love as the essence behind it.

We might have a different list like: Sing in church, serve on the board, preach or teach, volunteering in the community, cleaning the church, etc. All of these things are good and all of these things should be done and need to be done, but if we are not doing them out of a passion for God and his people then we might as well not even do them.

It has to be more than an obligation or a following of the rules; it needs to be out of deep and all-consuming devotion to Jesus.

Good works out of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than love is the same as \_\_\_\_\_ good works.

# Grace

## Week 4 - Grace and Works



**Discussion:**

Compare and contrast a time when you did something for the right reason (out of love) and the wrong reason. Were the results the same or different, what about to God?

---

---

---

---

---

---

A lot could be said on the subject of grace and works and we have only begun to scratch the surface, but as we finish up this study lets look at one final thought.

We are taught in scripture by Jesus (Paul and Peter both echo the sentiment) that the whole law of God would be kept in loving our neighbor as ourselves.

If we act and do things out of a genuine love of God provided by His grace, we will find that our lives will be filled with good works. We will feed the poor, visit those in prison, see people saved, see people healed and every other good work you can imagine because that is just how awesome the grace of God is. His grace empowers us as we will talk about next week.

**Discussion:**

Can you think of any examples in scripture where good works were performed out of love?

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Grace

## Week 4 - Grace and Works



### Discussion:

How does thinking about love in regards to works affect your thinking on Grace?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

## Week 4 - Grace and Works

# DO



Over the next couple of weeks seek God on volunteer opportunities He wants you to take advantage of. Maybe its in a local soup kitchen, maybe it something within our own church, or maybe it some other opportunity in the community. Write about your experience in your prayer journal and share the praise reports with your community group.

# Grace

Week 5 - Grace is Power



# Engage

What is your favorite snack/junk food to eat? Is there a time when you like to indulge in it the most?

---

---

---

---

---

---

What is more important to you: having a nice house, a nice car or a nice wardrobe? Why?

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

## Week 5 - Grace is Power

# Develop

### Introduction

Grace is more than forgiveness and reconciliation. Grace is God's power in us to do good works and to live righteously. It shouldn't be only thought of as something we fall back on when we sin. Grace is what allows us to live our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The amount of power we have to do good in this life is only because of the amount of grace poured out.

Outline.

1. We are called to reign in this life
2. Grace is power.
3. Accessing more of God's grace.

### We are called to reign in this life

#### **Romans 5:17**

*For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

There are two key questions we must ask ourselves from Romans 5:17.

1. **How** do we have the ability to reign in this life?

This one is answered in the scripture. We get it by *the abundance of grace* and the gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ

2. **What** do we reign over in this life?

This answer is simple, but essential to understand. *We reign over sin.*

We reign over sin by being dead to it and risen with Christ. Sin will no longer dominate us because of God's grace.

#### **Romans 6:14**

*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

# Grace

## Week 5 - Grace is Power



Christ did not just free us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin; he freed us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.

When we understand that Christ has freed us from the dominion of sin, it should give us the faith to lead power-filled lives by the grace of God.

### Grace is Power

The very will to do good comes from God.

**Philippians 2:13**  
*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.*

The grace of God is a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ we tap into by faith.

**2 Corinthians 12:9**  
*And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Note that in the above scripture Paul associates God’s grace with power.

**Discussion:**  
Give some examples in scripture of God’s power being perfected in weakness.

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Discussion**  
What should our attitude be in regards to things that seem like potential setbacks? Explain why.

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Grace

## Week 5 - Grace is Power Accessing More of God's Grace



God clearly states how we can receive more of His grace.

**James 4:5-6**

*Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? **6But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.***

It is in humility. That is how we allow God to pour out his grace into our lives.

When we have pride we are putting ourselves in opposition to God. God wants to pour his grace into us but is forced to resist us when we display pride.

**Discussion:**

Regardless of our intent, pride causes God to resist us. What might that look like in real life? If you can, please share some examples from personal experience.

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Discussion:**

Receiving more power through being humble seems backwards in our culture. Why does it work that way in God's culture? Share some examples of when God poured out His grace on you as a result of humility?

---

---

---

---

---

---

In James 4:10 it says that if we humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord that He will lift us up.

Grace is power because the less of you (your fleshly nature) that is involved, the more God can use his power.

# Grace

## Week 5 - Grace is Power



This is not to say that you are not in the equation. In fact, God specifically wants to use you to show his power. He wants to use you the same way he used his Son Jesus. Here is a checklist:

God says **you** will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

God says **you** will cast out demons.

God says **you** will speak with new tongues.

God says he has given **you** the spiritual gifts of the working of miracles and healings.

There is nothing humble about waiting for God to do something He has already asked you to do. Let's think about that again, there is nothing humble about waiting for God to do something He has asked you to do.

Genuine humility will yield spiritual power and effectiveness.

Godly \_\_\_\_\_ never leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

No man was ever more powerful than Jesus Christ, the Son of God. No man was ever more humble either. Jesus took on the form of a servant and became obedient to the death of the cross.

If we want to match Jesus in power, we should strive to match him in humility.

God also asks us to do such things as:

- Take care of the poor.
- Minister to the downtrodden.
- Minister to those in prison.
- Take care of widows and orphans.

Each of these acts also requires the grace of God. There is a danger of falling into a sense of self-pride when doing such acts. But when we approach such acts with the grace of God they will yield righteous fruit.

When we approach them with pride or a sense of false, self-centered humility, they will yield only hollow emptiness.

Look at the humility of Jesus when he was questioned about why He did what He did.

# Grace

## Week 5 - Grace is Power



**John 5:19**

*Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

If Jesus pointed to the Father, how much more should we point to him?

We need to realize we have died with Christ, and we are alive with him. It's not enough to just read it; we have to honestly believe it.

**Discussion:**

Romans 6 tells us that we have been made free from sin and made servants of righteousness. What does it mean to be free from sin? Do you believe the Bible when it says sin no longer has dominion over you?

---

---

---

---

---

---

God has made us free from the dominion of sin through Jesus Christ. The price was paid instantly. We don't have to "grow into" being free from sin. The moment you received God's grace you are no longer a slave to sin. You instantly died with Christ and rose with him.

We each need to honestly believe and know that we have already instantly been made free from sin in Jesus Christ. When we *don't* realize that Jesus has already made us free we will struggle to free ourselves. This is an act of futility, for it can only be by the free gift of grace that we escape the dominion of sin.

It makes no sense to strive to \_\_\_\_\_ something we already \_\_\_\_\_.

When things are going well, they are going well because of the grace of God. There is nothing wrong with wanting more grace.

The Bible says we are joint-heirs with Christ. Your Father is King. The heirs of kings don't operate off table scraps. We shouldn't live like we are spiritually bankrupt. As we conclude our study on grace, it's important to remember that when God does pour his grace out on us He should get the glory.





# Grace



## Week 5 - Grace is Power

Here are a few scripture pieces that can be picked out of scripture:

- "I labored more abundantly than they all"
- "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might."
- "I press toward the mark of the high calling"

When taken out of context, such single scripture may seem like our flesh is doing all the work. But when we take them in context of the surrounding scriptures and what the author is talking about, we find they are all by the grace of God.

In fact, if the above scripture bits are going to be taken out of context, it would be wise to tack this important phrase on the end...

"...by the grace of God."

- "I labored more abundantly than they all *by the grace of God*"
- "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might *by the grace of God.*"
- "I press toward the mark of the high calling *by the grace of God.*"

Or better yet, quote Jesus and say, "I don't do anything of myself, I'm just doing what my Father has shown me", and leave it at that.

## Concluding Remarks

I pray this series has blessed you and helped you to realize the freedom, power, and responsibility we have as recipients of God's undeserved grace.

### Discussion:

For our closing discussion, please discuss what stands out to you from the following scripture.

2 Corinthians 9:8  
*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

---



---



---



---



---



---

# Grace

Week 5 - Grace is Power

# DO

義我

See Do section from week 4.



