

God, Grace, Money & Possessions
Grace: God Loves, God Gives
John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 8:9

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

I. Last Week

- A. It's All God's: Ownership, Control, Provision
- B. Our Objections & Rebellions
 - Hard Working; Time, Non-Monetary; Functional Rebellion
- C. How God Wants Us To Respond
 - Gratitude/Thankfulness; Surrender

II. Grace

- A. What Is It?
 - Ryrie quote
 - References describing elements of grace (see below)
- B. God's Action
 - 1. Loves
 - 2. Gives
 - cf Philippians 2:5-8
 - 3. Benefits/Accomplishes
 - Titus 3:4-7

III. Putting It All Together

- A. God and His Grace
 - Source & Giver
- B. His Pattern, Our Pattern
 - We are beneficiaries [*Spurgeon quote*]
 - We are stewards (Ephesians 3:2, 6-12; 4:7)

IV. Our Response

- A. Receive
- B. Give [*The Love of God*]
Go Forward

Know - Check out the following additional passages about grace: Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14. Meditate and pray about them, and then identify the things you are to do in light of their truths.

Grow - Think about the relationships in your life. Are they infused with grace? Furthermore, are they characterized by love and giving? Make a list of those relationships that currently fall short of this standard. Commit those relationships to prayer.

Show - Begin working through your list, finding ways to express love and giving tangibly to those on it. Include money and possessions in how you walk this out.

"...the concept of grace in the New Testament...is infinitely and uniquely heightened by its association with the Saviour. The lavish gift of God in the person of His Son is the particularly New Testament meaning of grace. This is why it is quite true to say that *charis* is a word that has been raised to a higher level and filled with new meaning by our Lord Jesus Christ. His self-sacrifice is grace itself (II Cor. 8:9). This grace is absolutely free (Rom. 6:14; 5:15; Eph. 2:8), and it is that which conquers sin both in its penalty and its power (Rom. 5:12-21; 6:1-23). When that grace which was revealed in Christ is received by the believer, it then governs spiritual life by compounding favor upon favor. It equips, strengthens, and controls all phases of his life (II Cor. 8:6; Col. 4:6; II Thess. 2:16; II Tim. 2:1). Consequently, the Christian gives thanks (*charis*) to God for the riches of grace in His unspeakable gift (II Cor. 9:15). Throughout the New Testament, then, the predominant thought is the grace of God in Christ which redeems us, governs us, and gives us everlasting consolation and good hope."

Charles C. Ryrie, from The Grace of God

Elements of Grace

Saves

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Establishes

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand.... (Romans 5:1-2)

Delivers

For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ....as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:17, 21)

Empowers

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Sanctifies

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. (Titus 2:11-14)

Gives Ultimate Hope

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32)

Brings Glory to God

Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:35-36)

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)

"Between here and heaven, every minute that the Christian lives will be a minute of grace."
Charles Haddon Spurgeon

...the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you....to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. (Ephesians 3:2, 6-12)

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. (Ephesians 4:7)

The Love of God

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled and pardoned from his sin.

When hoary time shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

*O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.*