



Part 1:
The Truth About Grace

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The concept of grace, it's giving and receipt is very misunderstood. Surprisingly enough it is misunderstood **equally** among believers and seekers. This lack of understanding is not rooted in the definition of grace, but in the ways that it impacts our lives.

Grace defined is "God's unmerited favor". Simply put, it is God doing **good** for us that we do not deserve. Amongst ourselves, it is continuing to **bless** others who may not deserve the goodness that we share with them.

Our Need for Grace

In the beginning, God established three aspects of His relationship with humankind...

- ...**peace**.
- ...**provision**.
- ...**friendship**.

The presence of sin **distorted** each aspect of humankind's relationship with God, making it necessary for something **uniquely** more powerful...God's Grace.

Romans 3:23-24 *Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard,²⁴ and all need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They need to be made free from sin through Jesus Christ.*

God's grace not only is able **repair** the relationship that sin destroyed, but **saves** us from the penalty:

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Understanding Grace

To fully understand grace, we must **accept** it as a **priceless** gift.

Romans 4:16 *"So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe."*

To fully understand grace we must embrace three central truths about **salvation** through Christ:

1. Salvation isn't based on my **performance**; it's based on God's **promise**.
2. Salvation isn't given based on my **goodness**, it's based on God's **grace**.
3. Anyone who has **faith** in the grace of God will be saved.

The Power of Grace

The power and availability of God's gift of salvation demonstrates the **magnitude** of grace.

Although grace is **free**, it is provided at a tremendous **cost** – the **life** of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:15 *"But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ."*

When God looks at us through eyes of **grace**, He sees the **perfection** of **Christ**.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 *Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. ¹⁸ God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. ¹⁹ In other words, God was using Christ to restore his relationship with humanity. He didn't hold people's faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others.*

Right standing with God is only **possible** through the **sacrifice** of Christ.

Our God-honoring response to His grace is a commitment to **others** embracing it as well.

Turning Point . . .

Eternal life in **heaven** is the **ultimate** benefit of grace.

In heaven, the **results** of God's grace will go on and on **forever**.

Ephesians 2:4-7 *But God's mercy is great, and he loved us very much. ⁵ Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against God, he gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace. ⁶ And he raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with him in the heavens. He did this for those in Christ Jesus ⁷ so that for all future time he could show the very great riches of his grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus.*