



Grace—Freedom *from* Sin, not *to* sin

A revelation of the Grace of God is one of the most powerful and life-transforming truths yet if not well understood it can appear as if it is encouraging people to sin. I have had this revelation of God's grace for over 13 years, and I have seen people go to two extremes or two ditches. To be safe is to have one of them on each side of us. If you have no ditch on your left or right, you are in one. We need a balance.

Grace is God's unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor & love, power, strength, ability, provision, and mercy.

One of the most profound yet simple ways to define the grace of God is Jesus.

- Jesus is the grace of God.
- Contrary to what some believe, **grace is not a doctrine, but a person.**
- That person is Jesus. Jesus is grace.
- No Jesus, no grace.
- Opposing grace is opposing Jesus Himself. He is the grace of God and He brought and introduced grace to us all.

Main Text: John 1:17 *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

- Notice this says Grace and Truth.
- John 16:7 teaches that Jesus is the Truth. Grace goes with truth. When we minister the grace, we are ministering the truth. Grace is truth. It is not error or lies, but truth.

Everything God does in our lives is based on his grace.

We need not only to get a hold of the grace of God but **continue in it (Acts 13:43 and 2 Timothy 2:1)** because you will be tempted to try to relate to God based on your performance, holiness, once again.

You need to be rooted and grounded in the revelation of the grace of God because it is fundamental to our relationship with Him. It is the basis of His love for you and every good thing from Him.

These realities of the grace of God have led some to conclude that it did not matter how they live and do, because Grace got them covered after all:

1) All Sins forgiven

Did you know that by and through His grace your past, present and future sins were all paid for in full?

- i) Jesus died for sins once 2000 years ago and He will not be dying again for our future sins. If you don't believe, God can forgive a sin before it was committed then. You would better hope He can forgive a sin before you committed it, because He hasn't died for any of your sins since you committed them. Since He died for those sins before they were actually committed, then He can forgive those which you haven't committed. It's that simple!
- Hebrews 9:12, 15
 - Hebrews 10:10, 14
 - Hebrews 12:25
- ii) If you can't be saved because Jesus, did it thousands of years ago before you were even born and won't be doing so again (Hebrews 9:25-28; Hebrews 10:9-14).
- Vertically speaking (as concerns the Lord and the Father), sin has been paid for and taken care of in FULL once and for all people and all time. It is no longer an issue or barrier between you and God.
 - The challenge is on the horizontal (world we live in) and the effects and consequences of sin.
- iii) "But how can God forgive a sin before I even ever commit it?" **He anticipated it.** God knows the end from the beginning. He knew the sins of the entire world. So, Jesus took them and paid for them before you ever committed them. God provides for our needs before the need. This was true as He went to the cross before we were born.

- God always makes provision before we ever have a need. He is always ahead of us.

- iv) There is no sin that a word sorry can atone for – it's got to be the blood of Jesus. Saying sorry to God would be useless had not Jesus paid the sins in full. For remission of sins to occur, there has to be **shedding of blood** and in this case not the blood of calves and bulls but the blood of Jesus Christ, otherwise it can't happen (Hebrews 9:22).

- v) What the blood of Jesus accomplished can't be added to! It was sufficient and more than enough. There is nothing you can do or say that will make a full payment of your sin or sins. Jesus paid the debt in full. Now where the remission of these is, there is **no more offering of sin (Hebrews 10:18)**.

2) **No condemnation**

Romans 8:1_There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

From the Father's point of view, we are not receiving any condemnation and judgement because Jesus has paid it all.

3) **Paid in FULL**

Jesus did not just pay for our sins (actions), but He paid the price which took care of the very nature of our sin. He took care of the driving force and propensity to sin—our sin

nature which was the root of the sin actions we committed, and He has now given us a new heart having removed our sin nature.

4) Cannot sin

We are a Spirit, with Soul, living in a body. Our body is our earthly suit. It is our spirit man that gets born again and gets sealed – He cannot sin.

- i) 1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

The soul and flesh can sin and if you are not careful, your flesh (body can be thrown in jail even when your spirit is free)

5) Sealed

The reason our born-again spirit man cannot sin is because when we get born again, we are **Sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise —

- a) 2 Corinthians 1:22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.
- b) Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

- c) Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
 - i) Sin does not penetrate your born-again Spirit. It only happens on the outside (soul, Body).

Jesus

Jesus was the most gracious person, yet He did not encourage sin. Why? Because Grace does not encourage sin. Jesus is grace and He doesn't encourage people to continue in sin even if they are already forgiven and born again.

- a) *Example:* Go and sin no more (John 8:11).
- b) Grace encourages people *not* to sin. To believe that grace encourages people to sin is to say that Jesus encourage people to sin which is a lie.
- c) Grace frees people to live as God pleases, not as they please.
- d) The truth is people sin even without the revelation of grace (Jesus).
- e) Because Jesus is the grace of God, to say that grace encourages people to sin is to say that Jesus does encourage people to sin. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Paul

Paul was the other greatest preacher of grace and yet he writes almost every book encouraging people to live a godly life because of the grace of God. He was the most renown minister of grace outside Jesus.

- a) Galatians
- b) Ephesians
- c) Colossians
- d) Romans especially 12:1-2" *I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God [grace of God], that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

When grace is taught well, this question will arise. "*Shall I continue to sin that grace may abound?*" (Romans 6:1) "**Are you saying we can continue to sin? Are you not promoting sin?**" If this does not arise, we can rest assured we have not ministered the grace of God the way Paul did. When we have this question, it is time to celebrate meaning we have ministered it the way Paul did although we do not want to stop there but move forward to emphasize that this is not to encourage people to continue in sin.

All grace from the God of all grace (1 Peter 5:10) abounds toward us—why? So that we can abound unto every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8)—not to abound unto sin. There is no grace that is given to us to abound toward sin.

1. Grace leads to a godly life

- a) Grace does not permit or encourage us to sin, but to live a godly life.

- b) As I talk about the grace of God, I want to establish this upfront. Some have tried to dismiss the revelation of the grace of God citing that it encourages people to sin. Nothing can be further from the truth! The opposite is true. The grace of God does not empower people to sin but sets them free from the bondage and stronghold of any sin.
- i) In the same way, I'm not promoting sin rather setting people free from sin and condemnation so they **"go and sin no more"** (John 8:11).
- c) People do not need permission or a license from me to sin. They are already sinning without it.
- d) The grace of God sets people free from sin and gives them the desire (Philippians 2:13) and power (Romans 1:16-17) to live a godly life.
- i) The grace of God is the power of God unto salvation. It is power for us to be delivered from the hold of sin.
- e) Anyone who says because they have received the grace of God and the unconditional love of God, they can live like the devil and sin all they want **MUST to be born again** or they need to get their stinking mind renewed (Romans 12:1-2).
- o When you are born again, you do not want to sin. You have a new nature on the inside of you that is propelling you to live godly.

- If you want to sin, please **call the number** and we will have someone pray for you. Tell them that you want to sin and the first thing they will do is pray for you to be born again. You must be born again (John 3:3).

Main Text 2: *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

—Titus 2:11-12

- a) Notice that this would read this way after an understanding that Jesus is the grace of God.....For **Jesus** who brings salvation has appeared unto all men....
- b) The grace of God (Jesus) teaches us to live a godly life and deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live righteously and godly right now. It frees people from sin not free them to sin.
- c) A person that has a revelation and the right understanding of the grace of God will live a godlier and more holy life than one who doesn't. I live a godly and holy life, even after I have a revelation of grace why? Because I know that grace empowers me to live holy and **not to sin.**

The most holy and godly people I know have an understanding and revelation of grace. If you are ungodly and you fornicate, I can't be your friend. I will talk, be kind and gracious to you, but I can't and won't have you close and my best friend. You need to be godly.

Example: If a husband knows and understands that his wife loves him dearly, that understanding does not push him to cheat on her, rather it sends him closer to her making him more faithful. If he were to say, "my wife loves me so much I can cheat and sleep around," that man has missed the true revelation of her love for him. He needs to get born again, renew his mind or sue his mind for not working when it is needed the most. The tactic of fear and condemnation is powerless to set people free from sin. The motivations of the law cannot set people free. People must be taught the love and the grace of God for them to live a godly life.

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

—Romans 5:20

- a) Where sin abounds or increases, the grace of God abounds much more. Why? **Not to encourage or promote sin, but to set people free from sin.**
- b) The strength of God and His power to set us free from the dominion of sin supersedes the sin itself. The grace of God is bigger and stronger than all our short comings.

If you interpret what am saying as a license to go sin and fornicate:

- 1. You have not understood a thing I have said.
- 2. You were not listening
- 3. You are not born again
- 4. You do not know the Word of God regardless of how long you have been born again or in ministry.

Horizontally, here in this life and the world we live in, our actions are extremely important for relationships and other good things. If we ignore good actions here on earth, we lose our influence and ability to go further. No one wants to deal with someone ungodly or untrustworthy.

“Sin or living an ungodly life will cost you more than you want to pay, take you further than you want to go, and keep longer than you want to stay.” — *Pastor Lawson Perdue*

When you are born again, you have a desire to live a godly life even if you may not know how?

Die in sin, do I go to hell?

I had a friend in India who I considered to be a powerful woman of God whom when I asked her a question that I believe could revealed a lot to me. I asked her if a person that was born again and had been seeking the Lord for many years were to die in sin, would they go to hell or heaven. Her response was very telling. She strongly exclaimed, “he would go straight to hell.” I could not believe what I had heard. It was shocking and very frightening as well yet not the truth. If you were to die in sin for example in fornication, you would go to heaven if you were born again. Your sin or lack of sin is not what grants you permission to heaven. Your actions, good or bad are not the key to spending eternity with Jesus. Your faith in Jesus is the basis on which you enter heaven. What cleanses you, makes you righteous or right with God is faith in Jesus, not your good deeds.

For a believer, sin will get you to heaven quicker, but not to hell. Your good actions will keep you from going to jail but cannot keep you from going to prison (hell). If you have your faith in them, they will send you to hell—PRISON!

- a) Grace labors abundantly (1 Cor. 15:10).
- b) Grace lives holy (Titus 2:11-12).
- c) Grace causes us to think soberly (Romans 12:3)
- d) Grace is not works or performance (Romans 11:6). It is by grace or by works but not both.
- e) Grace abounds much more where sin abounds (Romans 5:20), not to encourage us to sin but to set us free from sin.

There are effects to not living holy in this life:

The vertical effects of sin between God and man have been dealt with. The problem still lies between men. Although living in sin is terrible and very dangerous, it doesn't stop God from loving us. God loves us unconditionally. Sin is no longer a barrier between you and God (John 12:31-32). It has been paid for. It's no longer a barrier. Jesus paid it all and there is none left to pay for.

1. Yield to God or Satan

- a) Romans 6:16 *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"*
 - i) Sin is like sewage that attracts flies.

b) John 10:10 *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

ii) Living an ungodly lifestyle opens up a door to the devil to come into our lives and steal, kill, and destroy.

2. Missed opportunities such as Promotion, open doors, and growth.

a) "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, **of good behaviour**, given to hospitality, apt to teach; ⁷ Moreover he must have **a good report of them which are without**; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." —1 Timothy 3:2, 7 (Emphasis Mine)

i) Although living a godly life, having good deeds doesn't make you better than your neighbor, it puts you in a better position than them. No one wants to neither hire nor promote a talebearer, scorner, pervert, a thief, or a slob. Many believers wonder why every time promotion comes around; they don't get it. They wonder why no one wants to promote them but the reason is apparent.

3. Cause poverty

Sin is expensive. Living ungodly lifestyles is too costly. Sinful acts will run you broke. Divorce, jail, and so forth could be the result of such behaviors.

i) Proverbs 21:17 "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich."

- ii) Proverbs 23:21 "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags."
- iii) Proverbs 29:3 "Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance."

4. Shortens life

- i) Psalm 34:12-14, 21 *"What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it."*
- ii) Proverbs 14:30 *"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."*
- iii) Exodus 20:12 *"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."*
- iv) Psalm 37:27 *"Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore."*
- v) Proverbs 14:27 *"The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."*

5. Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

- i) Notice it says, **"Of the flesh"**, not of God we reap corruption.