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Grace; Law / John 1:14-17

This lesson will examine the mistaken ideas that many have concerning the concept of grace as well as the core reason why the "Good News" is truly good.

What's so Good about Grace?

Defining Grace

John 1:14-17

John 1:14 ESV

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Grace is “AMAZING”

In Biblical terms the word is used to describe God’s attitude and actions towards mankind. What God has done for man, from the creation of the universe to the saving of his soul, is referred to as grace, God’s grace.

John 1:17 ESV

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

The essential meaning of grace

Ephesians 2:8–9 ESV

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

The danger of grace

1. Some do not understand the idea in the first place.
2. Some prefer the “works” system.
3. Some fear living by faith.

Philippians 3:9–11 ESV

⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Galatians 1:6–8 ESV

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

The essential teaching

Acts 2:37–42 ESV

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will

receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

John 3:16 ESV

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- Saved through grace – [John 3:16](#)
- Saved through faith – [Luke 8:12](#)
- Saved through baptism – [Mark 16:16](#)

Grace is free

Romans 6:23 ESV

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 4:4–5 ESV

⁴ Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵ And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

- Preaching the grace of God is the message of the gospel, it is what is good about the good news.
- Preaching baptism becomes necessary when the hearer has understood and believed the good news.

Where does human responsibility fit in?

It's not what grace demands or requires. This is the way the LAW speaks. The law demands and the law requires (obedience, perfect performance).

Romans 3:20 ESV

²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 2:4 ESV

⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

1 Corinthians 15:10 ESV

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

LAW = HAVE TO

GRACE = WANT TO

