



Grace Upon Grace Ephesians 2:8-10

Jesus is the very definition of grace John 1:14-17

"For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace." (John 1:16)

- Grace is undeserved kindness, favor, forgiveness and absolutely free!
- In the Old Testament, the word for grace also means to "Stoop down, to bend down."
- "Love that goes upward is worship, Love that goes outward is affection, Love that bends down is grace."
- Donald Barnhouse (20th Century Theologian)

By faith, Jesus offers us the free gift of grace Ephesians 2:8-9

"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)

- Grace clashes with our cultural value for independence and self-sufficiency
- We have a desperate need for grace because of our sin
- Faith in Jesus is what allows us to receive the free gift of grace
- God's grace is received, not earned
- "Grace does not depend on what we have done for God but rather what God has done for us."
- Philip Yancey (Christian author)

Discuss Together: Why is it so difficult for people to accept God's free gift of grace?

Jesus displays His grace through us Ephesians 2:10

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

- We are the artwork/handiwork of God
- Created in Christ Jesus (Two times! Created in the image of God and created new, born again)
- Prepared beforehand to walk in good works
- Better Together: "Consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24)

Digging Deeper

Further Reading

On the theme of God's grace, I found the following books really helpful. These books are available by order through the Calvary Corner Bookstore:

- "Grace Awakening" by Charles Swindoll
- "The Grace of God" by Andy Stanley
- "What Is So Amazing About Grace?" By Philip Yancey

Quotes on God's Grace

"God has surely promised His grace to the humbled: that is, to those who mourn over and despair of themselves. But a man cannot be thoroughly humbled till he realizes that his salvation is utterly beyond his own powers, counsels, efforts, will and works, and depends absolutely on the will, counsel, pleasure and work of Another – God alone" – Martin Luther

"Grace is free only because the giver himself has borne the cost." – Philip Yancey

"The Bible's purpose is not so much to show you how to live a good life. The Bible's purpose is to show you how God's grace breaks into your life against your will and saves you from the sin and brokenness otherwise you would never be able to overcome... religion is 'if you obey, then you will be accepted'. But the Gospel is, 'if you are absolutely accepted, and sure you're accepted, only then will you ever begin to obey'. Those are two utterly different things. Every page of the Bible shows the difference." – Tim Keller

"Grace is not reserved for good people; grace underscores the goodness of God." – Andy Stanley

"As a result of grace, we have been saved from sin's penalty. One day we will be saved from sin's presence. In the meantime we are being saved from sin's power." – Alistair Begg

"This is the amazing story of God's grace. God saves us by His grace and transforms us more and more into the likeness of His Son by His grace. In all our trials and afflictions, He sustains and strengthens us by His grace. He calls us by grace to perform our own unique function within the Body of Christ. Then, again by grace, He gives to each of us the spiritual gifts necessary to fulfill our calling. As we serve Him, He makes that service acceptable to Himself by grace, and then rewards us a hundredfold by grace." – Jerry Bridges

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Read John 1:14-17. Jesus is the very definition of grace. As a group, share some stories you remember from the Gospels that demonstrate the Jesus' grace (browse through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John if you need reminders).
2. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. God's free gift of grace clashes with our culture that values independence and earning what we receive. Why do people have such a hard time receiving God's free gift of grace? What was the tipping point in your life that allowed you to receive God's free gift of grace through faith?
3. Read Ephesians 2:10. Before we step out of our houses, we usually think about how we look. How can we also intentionally think about God's plan for our lives, and how He is going to display Himself and his grace through us today? (Question adapted from Pastor Ray Steadman)

Next Steps:

1. **Receive God's free gift of grace** this morning by placing your faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior (Forgiver of your sins) and Lord (Leader of your life). The Bible says, "... if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). You can pray with a leader at one of the Prayer Points in the front of the Worship Center.
2. **Grow in your knowledge and practice of grace** by joining a LifeGroup. Find out more info at Connection Point Central or at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
3. **Discover more about grace** through joining the "Following Jesus" mentorship program that begins Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 pm in the Lobby. Find out more at calvarylife.org/discipleship