

Grace Upon Grace; John 1:14-17

I. Basic Principles

- A. Grace - the idea that we deserve our punishment but the judge is unwilling to submit us to it
- B. Translated as; favor, gracious, benefit, thanks, thankfulness, grace, gift, grateful 154 times in the New Testament
- C. “Goodwill freely disseminated (by God); especially to the benefit of the recipient regardless of the benefit accrued to the disseminator” (God)
- D. I have a problem limiting the definition like that
- E. I think grace is so much more than just unmerited favor
- F. But that is the first definition we will look at

II. Unmerited Favor

- A. The Golden Calf - Exodus 32:7–10; 7 And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” 9 And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.”
- B. The twelve spies - Numbers 14:11–12; 11 And the Lord said to Moses, “How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”
- C. Moses interceded for the people and God relented of his destruction - Deuteronomy 18:15; “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—
- D. Moses was a type of Christ
 - 1. Luke 9:29–31; 29 And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. 30 And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, 31 who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.
 - 2. Moses was the great deliverer of Israel from the bonds of slavery
 - 3. Jesus is the great deliverer of mankind from the bonds of sin
- E. I sometimes wonder about the conversations between Jesus and God
 - 1. God - “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people (speaking of humanity). Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them,”
 - 2. Jesus - “Father, I have spilled my blood as a sacrifice, a propitiation, a satisfaction of your judgement against them, Therefore, those that ‘listen to me’ are no longer stained in wickedness, but are clothed in righteousness”
- F. This is the very definition of ‘unmerited favor’
- G. But there is so much more to this word, “grace”

III. A Teacher

- A. Titus 2:11–15; 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for

us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. 15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

B. Grace trains us to separate ourselves from sinful practices

1. Romans 6:15–19; 15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.
2. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
3. Romans 6:1–2; 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

C. We can not use the idea “we are human, therefore we sin” as an excuse to engage in sinful practices

D. God has not only forgiven our sins (past, present, and future) but has also provided us a way not to sin - 1 Corinthians 10:13; No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

E. Living without deliberately sinning is doable

F. If we let grace train us

IV. The Grace

A. In these next Scriptures there is a definite article in front of the word; “The Grace”

1. Titus 2:11; For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
2. Acts 20:31–32; 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
3. Hebrews 4:16; Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
4. Hebrews 10:29; How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?
5. Hebrews 13:24–25; 24 Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. 25 Grace be with all of you.

B. My goal is to get us to think in the manner of the writers of our Scriptures, not in the manner of the English language

C. Just as John describes Jesus as “The Word,” Paul describes Him as “The Grace”

V. Grace Upon Grace

- A. Unmerited favor
- B. Teacher of God's will
- C. Savior of the world