



PART 6: FULL OF GRACE

Sermon Notes

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

Introduction:

Luke 6:45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Stephen:

Acts 6:8 “Now Stephen, a man full of God’s **grace** and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.”

Grace = *charis* (Greek)

- Charismatic, Favour, Leaning towards to share benefit
- God reaching toward us to freely offer himself, to be near us.
- God’s grace confers on us special gifts.
- Grace – and its effects – are undeserved.

1. The Truth about Grace

John 1:14 Jesus came “full of grace and truth”

- God puts an “and” where we want to put an “or.”

The Old “me” (Ephesians 2:1-3)

- i) Followed the ways of this world
- ii) Was under the influence of the devil
- iii) Gratified the cravings of the flesh
- iv) Was under the wrath of God

Love, Mercy & Grace (Ephesians 2:4-5)

1 John 4:10 “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

God’s mercy: NOT getting what I DO deserve.

God’s grace: GETTING what I DON’T deserve.

Jesus didn’t come to make bad people good; he came to make dead people live.

2. The Gift of Grace (Ephesians 2:9-10)

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Grace is a gift, so all the glory goes to the giver. How could we ever claim credit?

When we understand that everything we have is a gift, then we realize that we can never judge anyone.

3. The Work of Grace (Ephesians 2:10)

God is a master artist who works on us until we are perfect. To ask him to stop is to ask him to stop loving us.

Grace also turns us into workers - out of a response to God’s work in us.

“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning.”

~ Dallas Willard

Two applications of God's grace:

a) Generosity

Acts 4:33-34 "And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them."

Grace at work in a community means lack of need.

"We hold everything in common except our wives" ~ Tertullian

b) Relationships with "outsiders"

Colossians 4:5-6 "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Conclusion:

"Grace is a gift, but God is not only the giver, he himself is the gift. God graces us with himself." ~ Jeremy Treat

Life Group Discussion

1. Warm Up: Reflect back on the whole FULL series. What questions do you still have? What impacted you the most? What are you going to do about it?
2. Discuss the tricky balance between grace and truth (John 1:14). How do we show grace without compromising truth? How do we express truth in a gracious way?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:9-11. What stands out to you about this passage?

- How do grace and hard work relate?

- What is our role in the application of God's grace in our lives?

4. How does God's grace to us make us more generous with others (Acts 4:33-34)?
5. How does God's grace to us change the way we interact with "outsiders" (Colossians 4:5-6)?
6. Pray together:
 - a) Pray that we become FULL of God's grace
 - b) Other requests:
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