

Week 7 (10/4) – Barriers to Embracing Grace

Embracing Grace Part I - Review

- Grace is a word whose OT synonyms are mercy, love, favor, compassion, kindness, and holiness.
- Rooted in the character of God, Ex 34:6 "...The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate (rahem) and gracious (hen) God, slow to anger, abounding in love (hesed) and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet..."
- Grace = Grace is the actions of kindness and mercy that emerge from a heart of love and compassion.
- Grace in NT is almost always linked with other ideas: Eph 2:4; Heb 4:16; 1 Tim 1:14.
- Grace is embodied in the life of Jesus (John 1:14-17)...his actions depict what embracing grace looks like in the flesh.
- Redemption, atonement, and justification are the expression of God's grace that we receive through faith alone.
- Assurance of Grace = God's character, his love demonstrated (Rom 5:1-12) in Christ, gift of Holy Spirit.

Barriers to Embracing Grace

(1) Pride

- 1 Pet 5:5 - "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

I want to do it myself, I think I can accomplish it myself

- Ps 10:1-11
- Ezekiel 24:21 - Israel takes pride in physical strength, or even the promise of God
- Dan 4:37 - Nebuchadnezzar
- Hezekiah – 2 Chron 32:2
- John 5:39 – you diligently study the Scriptures

I don't need much grace...I'm a good person

- Luke 18:18-29...still lack one thing
- Matt 25:31-46...When Lord?
- His part - My part - The Negro boy down in my Southland years ago, wanted to join a church. So the deacons were examining him. They asked, "How did you get saved?" His answer was, "God did His part, and I did my part." They thought there was something wrong with his doctrine, so they questioned further, "What was God's part, and what was your part?" His explanation was a good one. He said, "God's part was the saving, and my part was the sinning. I done run from Him as fast as my sinful heart and rebellious legs could take me. He done took out after me till He run me down." My friend, that is the way I got saved also. - J. Vernon McGee Romans, Vol.1

If I accept grace I must admit that I need it

- 1 Cor 10:12 - If you think you stand, take heed lest you fall
- Rom 2:17-24; 3:9-23 – all sin and fall short of glory of God
- Lk 18:9-14 – Parable of the Pharisee and tax collector

2009 Cycle 2 – Embracing Grace

- John 9 – Jesus heals a blind man

(2) Fear

I want grace for myself...but I don't want to promote grace because it leads to lawlessness.

- Gal 5:13-18 -

(3) Doubt

Lack Faith = Don't trust God...that he really loves me....

- 2 Kings 6:8-23 – “open is eyes”
- Rom 5: 1-8

I don't experience grace or love in other relationships

Rebellion

I Don't want reconciliation....it places demands on me and removes my excuse to remain unchanged

I want it to cost me something...then I will feel better about the gift

(4) By accepting it too easily

Off course I need / want God's grace, I'm a sinner

- But then failing to trust that grace, reject guilt as the tool of Satan and live a life free of “leaps-of-faith” as if grace didn't cost anything
- 1 Cor 6:20