

Week 10 (10/25) – Grace is more than Salvation....it shapes our life purpose

Generally, our focus in understanding “grace” centers on God’s forgiveness of our sins and His gift of salvation through Christ. This is the central message of the gospel, but it is not the only message of the gospel. God’s grace encompasses more than redemption. We receive God’s grace in a variety of ways and we express our embrace of God’s grace through the way that we live. God’s grace is a wonderful gift. God’s grace is a powerful gift that has great impact upon us.

God’s grace (compassion/kindness/favor) expressed in Salvation

- Acts 15:11; 18:27; 20:24
- Heb 2:9 - Jesus tastes death for everyone...by God’s grace
- Rom 3:24 – are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus
- Rom 4:16 – that is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace”
- Eph 2:8f – “not by works”

Discussion

1. What is the connection between faith and grace?
2. What makes “grace” good news? Bad news?

God’s grace (compassion/kindness/favor) expressed in our design

- 1 Pet 4:1-12 – each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms....
- Rom 12:1-8 – “different gifts, according to the grace given us.”
- 1 Cor 1:4-9 –“...because of his grace given you in Jesus Christ...enriched in every way...”
- Eph 4:7-16 – gifts as Christ apportioned it..
- 1 Cor 12:7-11 – “manifestation of the Spirit”
- 1 Cor 4:7 – What do you have that you did not receive?

Discussion

1. In what ways are our designs an expression of God’s grace?
2. What are the implications of connecting who we are with grace?
3. What cultural messages fight against “embracing” grace with respect to our design?
4. What implications does embracing grace in the way have on our education? Career choices? Work in the church? Ministry involvements? View of others?

God's grace (compassion/kindness/favor) expressed through our lives

- Eph 4:29 “may impart grace to (benefit) those who hear”
- 2 Cor 8:1-9,19; 9:8, 14 God's Grace → joy in suffering and genuine desire to make a generous offering
- LK 6:32-34 - Lending to friends. The Greek here could be translated, “If you love those who love you, what kind of grace is that?”

Discussion

1. What does it mean to connect grace to our manner of living?
2. According to these passages, what motivates our behavior toward others ?
3. What are some practical ways tha

God's grace (compassion/kindness/favor) seen in hardship

- 1 Pet 2:19f - Receive hardship and suffering because you are conscious of God...you will receive grace from God
- 2 Cor 12:9 - Paul's “my grace is sufficient for you”;
- Heb 2:9 - By the grace of God, Jesus tasted death for everyone

Discussion

1. How is grace connected to suffering?
2. How do we “embrace” grace when life is hard?
3. What cultural messages fight against “embracing” the gift of hardship?