

## Grace, Part 3 | Man

**I. You Need to *Submit* to God's Grace.****- You need to Submit to God's Grace in Desperation.**

- Those who are unsaved would be born again, and believers would grow from one degree of glory to another as they confess and repent.
- But we humans are so stinking prideful and arrogant. We hate to be told we're wrong. We hate to experience shame and guilt. We hate to think that people are "thinking poorly" of us. We hate to feel like we're failures. But the reality is that we are failures. We're sinners incapable of glorifying God without His help. We're wired in our sinful hearts to run from God. Why are we surprised when we find that we're in sin? Why do we hate to be corrected?
- We need to remember that experiencing Desperation — recognizing our sinful state — is a wondrous grace of God designed to help us turn from that sinful state. It's a good thing.
- James 5:13-18

**- You Need to Submit to God's Grace in Justification.**

- Have you really taken the time to recognize God's gracious gift of salvation to you?
- You deserve eternal separation from God because you have rebelled against Him, but He mercifully doesn't give you what you deserve. Instead, He's graciously given you this life and the opportunity to learn about the Good News of salvation and respond accordingly.
- In addition to that, not only is God gracious to give you the *opportunity* to respond to the Gospel, He has graciously done *all of the work* because you could never fix your relationship with God yourself.
- Jesus Christ graciously came to this earth, became the eternal God-man, lived the perfect life we could never live, died the substitutionary death we could never die, rose again — defeating death and hell — because we never could, and ascended to the Father in our stead.
- Will you submit to the grace of God that offers so sweet a salvation?

**- You Need to Submit to God's Grace in Sanctification.**

- When a believer acknowledges her desperate need of holiness and conformity to Christ, she will agree with God about her sin, ask for forgiveness, and seek to change to the glory of God.
- *All* believers need to submit to the grace that shows us our sin, shows us how we should live, and gives us the strength to do so.
- Will you recommit today to submitting to the glorious grace of God in your progressive sanctification?

**II. You Need to *Grow* in God's Grace.**

- Behaviors follow beliefs. When we submit to God's grace, we will be changed by the grace because we'll make new choices in light of the truth God has shown us.
- It's a lie to say that we're submitting to the grace of God in our salvation if we're not actually being progressively changed.
- Ask your spouse, your kids, your pastor, your teachers, and your friends if they see the spiritual growth in your life. If they waiver as they answer, if they "think so," but can't really identify how you've changed, then you need to recognize that your professed submission to God's grace isn't bearing noticeable fruit. And that usually means the profession is merely on the lips, not in the life.
- We all do this to one degree or another, but I am saying that if your life-choices don't match your profession level of faith, then you don't really mean what you say.

### III. You Need to *Show* God's Grace.

- I Peter 4:10; II Corinthians 9:5-9
- Those who have received mercy and grace are those who *give* mercy and grace.
- Jesus told many parables about servants who had received blessings, but who did not extend those same blessings to others, and they received intense consequences for daring to hoard the grace of God.
- As we show grace to others, God abundantly provides the grace we need *for every good deed in our own lives* — every other gracious choice to bless another. As we sow grace into other people's lives, God provides all the grace we need to continue being more gracious to others.

### IV. You Need to *Praise* God for His Grace.

- **Praise God for His Common Grace.**
  - We have so much for which to be thankful. We have zero excuses for discontentment, complaining, murmuring, jealousy, envy, and griping.
  - We are most foolish when we complain about the weather. Though we deserve the eternal darkness, fire, and flesh-eating worms of hell, yet we justify complaining about rain and snow and heat and cold. Shame on us.
  - If we want to mature in our walk with Christ this year, let's put more effort — by the power of the Holy Spirit — into being thankful for the sovereign providence of God in our lives.
- **Praise God for His Saving Grace.**
  - Stop for just a moment to truly allow yourself to try to fathom the wondrous, intense, absolutely indescribable grandeur of your salvation!
  - You deserve eternal death separated from Him, and yet God offered us eternal life with Him. We didn't even deserve this earthly life because God knew we would be sinners just like our father Adam, and yet He sent Jesus to be the new Adam Who would bring righteousness in His wake.

### V. You Need to *Anticipate* God's Grace.

- **Look forward to God's common grace.**
  - Instead of looking at tomorrow's weather, financial, or national forecast with doom and gloom, look toward the grace God is pouring on you through them all.
- **Look forward to God's justifying grace.**
  - You don't have to look forward to God saving you, you can be saved right now, today!
  - But perhaps you have unsaved friends and family. Anticipate the fact that the Holy Spirit is still working in this world to convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgement. Anticipate the fact that God is going to continue working in their hearts to draw them to Him, and continue to participate in that work by being salt and light and sharing the Gospel
- **Look forward to God's sanctifying grace.** Hebrews 12:8-11
  - Anticipate how God desires to mature you this coming week.
  - Look forward to the fact that God wants to use His Word, His people, and the Holy Spirit in you to convince you that you're wrong . . . or that you're not as right as you think you are.
- **Look forward to God's glorifying grace.**
  - One day in the future Christ will return, and we shall see Him as He is, and we will be cleansed of our sin — not just positionally, but practically — for all eternity!
  - Be looking forward to that this week. Be longing for it. Earnestly wait for it.