

## Grace, Part 4 | Celebration

**I. Celebrate God's grace by talking with God about His grace.**

- **Study God's grace in the Scriptures.**
  - Read the Word.
  - Study the Word. The Season of Grace is three months long. There is plenty of time to use a concordance, Bible dictionary, commentaries, and the like to study every specific instance in the Scripture concerning the grace of God.
- **Pray about God's grace.**
  - Thank Him for His grace.
  - Ask God to convict you of your lack of grace.
  - Ask for God to make His grace evident in the lives of your fellow disciples.
  - Ask God to help you see His grace more clearly.

**II. Celebrate God's grace by being gracious.**

- It's impossible for a genuine child of God who is growing in their knowledge and understanding of God's grace to not be more gracious.
- The best way to celebrate God is to obey Him. It doesn't matter if we go to church, read our Bibles, pray, preach, give, or any other noble endeavors if we're doing it for our own pleasure and benefit. God is not being worshipped when we live for ourselves. Therefore, true worship — true celebration — only occurs as we do the right things in the right ways for the right reasons and in the right power. That is the purest and best form of worship we can ever offer God.

**III. Celebrate God's grace by observing the grace holidays.**

- The High Days belong to God and should be a celebration of praise for Him. The temptation is that if we're living the Low Moments for self, the chances are very high that the High Days will be lived for self as well. But when we're depending on God, giving Him the preeminence, and fixing our eyes on Him through all the normal seconds of life, there is a much higher chance that our Holidays will also be experienced to His honor and glory.
- **Advent**
  - Advent is a double-edged holiday of celebration and anticipation. As we look back to the Lord's first advent, we celebrate that massive moment in human history when God stepped physically into His own redemption story to fulfill the promises He made so many years before. But it's also a time to look forward to Christ's second advent when He collects His people to Himself and eventually sets up His kingdom on this earth.
  - It's a looking back and a looking forward. It's a gratification and a delayed gratification. It should cause us to think about our Justification and our future Glorification. It involves opportunities for celebratory feasting and celebratory fasting.
  - Advent is a 40 day timeframe to refocus our eyes on God and His eternal plan to relate to His people for His own glory.
- **Christmas**
  - Christmas isn't merely about family and love . . . it's about God's love that would dare to make us part of His family. Every born again believer is going to celebrate that at some point in the year. Whether it's December 25th or not, it doesn't matter. No true child of God is going to refuse to praise Him for the incarnation and subsequent life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ.

- Please, child of God, give God the preeminence because of Christ's first gracious advent to this world.
- Christmas is not a pagan derivative when it's celebrated by God's people for His glory. And there is little legitimate historical evidence that December 25th was chosen in order to hijack a godless holiday.
- **Valentine's Day**
  - If we're going to celebrate God's grace, then we must praise God for His incalculable and everlasting love. And what better time is there to put God's love in the spotlight than when the world is trying to distract us by its pathetic versions of love?
  - Why should Christians be quiet on Valentines Day when we could be proclaiming the love of God? And — worse yet — why should we ignore the love of God to focus merely on the romantic feelings we experience?
  - There's nothing wrong with giving valentines or celebrating the gift of romance, but when we do so to the exclusion of God's love — which is the source from which all holy love flows — then we're worshipping the creature over the Creator.
- **Family Day**
  - You don't have to be Canadian to celebrate God's gift of the Family on February 17th. We should be celebrating that gift every day! Of course, in America our Family Day is the first Sunday in August, but this isn't about the country in which you live. This is about recognizing God's gracious gift of the family.
  - Even if your family growing up was not ideal or your current family has huge problems, God used your family to give you life and equip you to be the person He's creating you to be.
  - That means — just like all of the other hard experiences in our lives — God has a gracious plan to give Himself glory and mature us.
  - And for those of you who love celebrating God's gift of the Family, you could celebrate it in February *and* August if you want. That's one of the things that's so great about The Year Long Celebration of God. It's customizable!
  - Yes, we absolutely must give God the glory for family, salvation, love, creation, the church, His Word, all of His attributes, and a million other things, but He's given us latitude in when and how we do it.
  - You don't have to slavishly or legalistically observe these occasions in order to earn anything from God. These are simply corporate opportunities for us to join with God's people all over the world to celebrate Him, His character, and His deeds . . . which includes the gift of our families.