

In Every Challenge...Grace

Jan 18, 2026

At the heart of this message lies a transformative truth that reshapes how we understand our relationship with God and each other: grace is not something we earn, but something we receive. Drawing from Ephesians 2:8-9, we're reminded that salvation itself is a gift—unmerited favor that flows from God's goodness, not our performance. This foundational understanding changes everything. When we truly grasp that God's love isn't contingent on our prayers being long enough, our worship being passionate enough, or our behavior being good enough, we're liberated to live from gratitude rather than guilt. The sermon challenges us to examine whether we've been approaching God with apologies for not being enough, revealing that such thinking betrays a misunderstanding of grace's depth. The powerful story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery from John 8 illustrates this beautifully—the very One who wrote the law chose mercy over judgment, grace over condemnation. This same grace that saves us is meant to flow through us to others, transforming how we respond to conflict, disappointment, and human failure within our communities. When we've truly experienced grace, we become mirrors reflecting it outward, extending the same patience, forgiveness, and mercy we've received to those around us, even when—especially when—it's undeserved.

01. In what areas of your life do you still struggle with believing you need to earn God's love rather than simply receiving His grace as a free gift?

03. When someone wrongs you, do you find it easier to demand justice or extend grace, and what does your natural response reveal about your understanding of how God treats you?

05. What would it look like practically to make forgiveness an attitude or default setting in your relationships rather than something you reluctantly do after being hurt?

07. In what ways might rigid rule-keeping from your past make it challenging for you to extend undeserved kindness to others who fail or disappoint you?

09. What specific challenge are you facing right now where you need to choose grace over judgment, revenge, or strict justice?

02. How does understanding that salvation is not a reward for good works but a gift from God change the way you approach your relationship with Him?

04. Reflecting on Jesus's response to the woman caught in adultery, how should grace and truth work together in our lives when addressing sin in ourselves and others?

06. Have you experienced a 'thorn in the flesh' that God chose not to remove, and how did His grace prove sufficient to carry you through that ongoing difficulty?

08. How does the image of God's grace as wave upon wave crashing on the shore encourage you when you feel like you've exhausted His patience or mercy?

10. If grace changes how we respond to others, what would your church community look like if every member truly extended undeserved kindness in every challenge they faced together?

Remember...

“Like shock absorbers on a car, grace doesn't remove the bumps that are coming, but it helps us endure them.”