

07/02/23 Message

Part of Grace is Greater

July 1, 2023

Message: Grace > Bitterness

Series: Grace is Greater

Do you believe God's grace is enough? You need grace. I need grace. Grace fills a void in your life you just can't fill with anything else. It helps you get past your mistakes, it comforts your hurts, and it is always bigger than any of your circumstances. That's grace! But here's the deal... you can't get grace from Jesus unless you have a close, personal relationship with Him!

Bitterness is an emotional cancer that will eat you up from the inside out. It is a blight that will contaminate you. It is a burden that will crush you. It is a blaze that will cook you...

—James Merritt

Hebrews 12:14-15 (NLT)

14 Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

15 Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

- The road God wants you to go down is a road where you have
 - PEACE with everyone AND
 - HOLINESS before God

Matthew 22:36-39 (NLT)

36 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

37 Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

- The GREAT COMMANDMENT
 - You can't have peace with others if you don't have holiness before God - and - you can't have holiness before God unless you have peace with others.
 - God's grace DOES NOT fail, but we CAN fail to take advantage of His grace

How to avoid or combat bitterness in a relationship:

- If you're saved, you have the ministry of RECONCILIATION

Read: ***2 Corinthians 5:16-21***

- Key Point: Follow ***Matthew 18:15 (NLT)***
If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.
 - GO
 - PRIVATELY
 - POINT OUT
- Key point: Does what I'm about to say or do pass the THINK test
 - is it...
 - T TRUE
 - H HELPFUL
 - I INSPIRING
 - N NECESSARY
 - K KIND
- Truth: Other people do not produce bitterness in you. It is your response to other people that produces bitterness.
- You can turn your bitterness into STRENGTH