

07/23/23 Message

Part of Grace is Greater

July 22, 2023

Message: Grace > Weakness

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!

Definition:

- Weakness – lacking strength
- It's regarded as a disadvantage or fault

Watch Video: Chris Benedict (DJ of Ability)

- Grace preserves the heart if you've turned it completely over to Christ
 - Grace strengthens your CHARACTER
 - Grace strengthens your SPIRIT
 - Grace strengthens your CAPABILITIES
- We ALL have a weakness
 - What is your weakness?
- The weaker I am – the stronger GOD becomes!

Romans 14:1-19 (NLT)

1 Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.

2 For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables.

3 Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them.

4 Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him judge whether they are right or wrong. And with the Lord's help, they will do what is right and will receive his approval.

5 In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable.

6 Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. Those who eat any kind of food do so to honor the Lord, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who refuse to eat certain foods also want to please the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves.

8 If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

9 Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

10 So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

11 For the Scriptures say, "'As surely as I live,' says the LORD, 'every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will confess and give praise to God.'"

12 Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.

13 So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong.

15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died.

16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good.

17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

- ACCEPT instead of ARGUE
 - Romans 14:1 (NLT) - Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.
- Put GOD ahead of YOURSELF
 - Romans 14:7-8 (NLT) - For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.
- Put OTHERS ahead of YOURSELF
 - Romans 14:13 (NLT) - So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.
- Live a life full of GOODNESS and PEACE and JOY in the Holy Spirit
 - Romans 14:17 - For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- If you do this, you will please God (v.18) - and you'll build harmony in the body of Christ (the church) and you'll build each other up!

Watch Video: Jake Olsen (Blind Long-Snapper)

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.