

07/09/23 Message

Part of Grace is Greater

July 8, 2023

Message: Grace > Vengeance

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!

- His grace takes the mess and makes it a BLESSING
- You can know ABOUT Jesus without KNOWING Jesus
- God's grace DOES NOT fail, but we can fail to take advantage of His grace!

A vengeful spirit is so much a part of who we are as a worldly culture, it takes a bit of reprogramming - Jesus style - so you think differently!

—Pastor Chad

- Getting rid of the bitterness means you release the EMOTIONS
 - True forgiveness means you release the PERSON
- Offended (emotionally injured) people often...
 - RETALIATE (can start a vicious cycle of retaliation)
 - Seek RETRIBUTION (someone has to pay)
 - Seek REVENGE (I want to see them hurt like I hurt)
- How it plays out - hurt people...
 - IGNORE or AVOID
 - FIGHT
 - FORGIVE (Best Option)

2 Timothy 4:14-18 (NLT)

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm, but the Lord will judge him for what he has done.

15 Be careful of him, for he fought against everything we said.

16 The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them.

17 But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death.

18 Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

Paul's First Example

Alexander (vv14-15)

- RELEASE your right (to retaliate, to seek retribution, to seek revenge)

Romans 12:19 (NLT) [from Deuteronomy 32:35]

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD.

- You release the offense, the offender, and you release yourself

Paul's Second Example

Those who abandoned him (v16)

- PRAY for those who hurt you

Luke 6:27-28 (NLT)

27 "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.

28 Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

- LEAN on Jesus (when you're down, hurting, angry...)
 - He'll stand with you, give you strength, and deliver you safely

God is standing with you and offers you a grace that is not only greater than anything you have done but greater than anything that has been done to you.

—Kyle Idleman

Because God is your loving Father:

- He is always on your side
- He is always in your corner
- He always has your back
- He is always there for you
- He has always “GOT THIS” (regardless of what this actually is)

That means:

When someone messes with you, they have to deal with Him!

Challenge

- Release that person
- Turn it over to God
- Pray for them
- Lean on Jesus
- Because Grace is greater than your vengeance!