

About Grace

Χάρις – A generous predisposition toward someone; what is granted from one to another that is not otherwise obligatory; “undeserved love”; “unmerited favor”

The Need of Grace¹

Context – Jews and Gentiles

“There is no distinction” – vs. 22

The Ultimate Standard

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” – vs. 23

The Grand Canyon Analogy

Are people good or bad? Compared to what?

What do you compare yourself to?

Do you find yourself better or worse than those you are comparing yourself to?

How to Get the Gift of Grace

“and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith”

Grand Canyon Analogy – He Makes the Leap for You

It is received by faith

“To receive a gift you must have open hands. You must sense your own need.”

Mark 2:16-17 “They asked Jesus, ‘Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?’¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.’”

Misunderstandings

Misunderstanding 1: *Grace fills in the gaps of where we fail.*

Misunderstanding 2: *You don’t need grace after you become a Christian.*

Misunderstanding 3: *You keep getting grace because you do the right things.*

(The whole sermon next week will be the details on what grace does for you)

Living by Grace

“Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded”

Where do we see boasting in our world?

Why should we “do good to those who persecute you?”

Why do we forgive others?

We give grace because we get grace!

Questions for Personal Study

1. Why is the comparison game unhelpful when we think of God’s standard?
2. Why do we resort to performance Christianity so quickly? Why is it hard to trust grace?
3. What did Jesus do to make grace available for us?
4. What is one tangible way that I could show grace to people around me this week, especially people who “don’t deserve it?”

ⁱ This series is inspired by a book called “Transforming Grace” by Jerry Bridges.