



Part 4 – March 24, 2019
Pastor Shannon Chapman

In this series on grace, we will learn that while God loved us even as we were, He loves us too much to leave us there. His grace saves us and guides us out of the darkness and into the light. No matter where you are in your faith journey, this series will edify and strengthen an understanding of God's design in all our lives, starting from the inside out.

Series Quick Notes:

Grace is the favor of undeserved mercy that comes to us again and again.

God's grace is more than forgiveness; He sends His grace to teach us a new way to live.

If we have been raised with Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit, we are no longer bound, and we can say, "No" and walk away.

Full of Grace and Truth

John 1:14, The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus shows us that apart from grace, we can't really speak the truth, and apart from truth, we are not really speaking words of grace.

The peace of God comes when grace and truth are joined together.

John 1:16, From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

John is letting us know that when God's grace is poured out, it is more than adequate.

No one is beyond the power of God's grace!

Romans 5:20, Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Some have said that when grace enters our lives, we are again able to breathe as we were created to breathe.

When we experience grace, we begin to enjoy the restoration of what our lives should have been like.

A Road Block to Grace

Hebrews 12:15, See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.

Bitterness becomes a road block to grace when a wounded heart draws inward and avoids grace itself.

Bitterness does not affect only you; it affects everyone with whom you come into contact.

Some say that bitterness is the result of anger changing from an experience to a belief.

The only cure for bitterness is an act of grace seen through the lens of forgiveness.

Psalms 139:23-24, Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Community of Grace

1 Peter 4:8-11, The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Peter shows us four things that will help us be a community of grace: be sober minded, show sincere love, show hospitality, and serve one another.

Our words and actions are the practical expressions of God's grace to others.

We steward the grace we have received by the way we speak and act toward others in the church.

May City Church be a community where we experience grace upon grace!