



Part 2 – March 10, 2019
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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

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

Full Work of Grace

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

Richard Foster says we are:

Saved by Grace

But a lot of people end up living...

Paralyzed by Grace

The full work of grace is:

Christ's payment for our sin

Christ's resurrection empowerment

Grace as a Cure

Grace not only wipes away sin; it teaches us how to avoid sin.

Grace is not just a treatment plan; it's a cure for the deeper struggles in our hearts.

I Corinthians 15:10, But God's amazing grace has made me who I am! And his grace to me was not fruitless. In fact, I worked harder than all the rest, yet not in my own strength but God's, for his empowering grace is poured out upon me.

Grace is not opposed to effort; Grace is opposed to earning.

Grace Filled Effort

Colossians 3:1-17

D. A. Carson says, “People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord but to compromise and disobedience....”

Comes from a New Heart

Jesus tells Nicodemus in the NT you must be “born again” to have eternal life.

Through being justified to God by Christ, He now regenerates our hearts and gives us eyes and ears to hear and see Him in all things.

Grace filled effort can’t be manufactured out of a sinful heart. It is a new heart that grace filled effort is born out of!

Uses Weapons of Grace

Ephesians 2:13 – Blood of Christ

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – Word of God

These weapons help us run to God and not away from God when we stumble and fall.

Seeks a heart transplant, not behavior modifications

We think that we are not wicked and in need of repentance and that we just need to modify our behavior.

Until our heart issues are recognized and resolved, trying to tweak our behaviors is like chasing your own tail.

You don’t just trim the branches; you pull up the roots.

Where the heart is changed, so is the behavior.

Sees the Bigger Reason

Grace filled effort is not motivated by the fact that when I sin I feel bad; it is birthed out of the understanding that when I sin I make light of the God of the universe.

Paul says: (2 Corinthians 7:10)

Worldly Sorrow – ends in death

Godly Sorrow – end in repentance

Puts to Death Sin

We need to be dead to sin, not just forsake it.

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!

Grace Question

Are you walking and living under grace filled effort, or are you building your hope on your own effort? If so, step away from that weight and hold on to the grace of Christ and Him crucified.