



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Living in Uncommon Grace!

Passage: James 4:4-10

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Most Christians hear the word grace and think immediately of salvation. We think of the grace that found us when we were lost, the grace that forgave our sin, the grace that lifted us out of the pit and set our feet upon the Rock. We rejoice that “by grace are ye saved through faith.” And praise the Lord—that is gloriously true. But James wants us to know something else—something deeper. Grace is not just the doorway into the Christian life; grace is the daily oxygen of the Christian life. It is the strength of the weary, the cleansing of the sinful, the courage of the tempted, the comfort of the broken, and the victory of the humble. Grace is not God’s one-time gift; it is God’s ongoing flow. Our text tonight is a road map showing us how to live in that uncommon grace.

I. **Spiritual Adultery** (Verse 4-5)

A. What is spiritual adultery?

Spiritual adultery happens when we give to the world what belongs to God

You cannot be intimate with the world and intimate with God at the same time.

B. How we commit spiritual adultery today.

We often live as if the world has better answers than God.



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We often live as if the world, culture, money, entertainment, and convenience can give us what only God can.

This “spiritual adultery” shows up when we joke about sin, desire what God says is empty, follow voices louder than Scripture, treat holiness as optional, and push back against conviction rather than submitting to it.

II. The Gift of Grace (Verse 6)

- A. Grace is God’s supply for our shortage.

When you stop pretending you’ve got it all together, God starts pouring out what you truly need.

- B. Grace is sufficient in weakness.

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Grace doesn't always change your situation. Grace changes you in the situation.

Grace doesn't always remove the thorn. Grace keeps your heart from bleeding out.

Uncommon grace flows where humility grows.

III. Submit and Resist (Verse 7)

- A. Submission: The Foundation of Victory

Submission means surrendering the right to be in charge.

When you are under God’s authority, you have God’s power.

- B. Resistance: A Daily Stand

“The devil is like a mad dog on a chain. He is bound; he can bark, but he cannot bite unless you get too close.” (Martin Luther)



Many believers lose spiritual battles because they wander right into Satan's reach.

IV. Draw Near and Cleanse (Verse 8)

- A. God draws near to those who draw near to Him.

God does not run from repentant sinners; He runs toward them.

- B. Cleansing is the fruit of nearness.

You cannot cling to sin and cling to God at the same time.

The joy of salvation is restored only when the stain of sin is removed.

Uncommon grace comes to Christians who are not content to be forgiven—they want to be clean.

V. Repent and Mourn (Verse 9)

- A. Why mourning is necessary.

You will never abandon what you do not grieve, and you will never repent of what you do not regret.

Repentance is not sorrow over consequences—it is sorrow over the condition of the heart.

VI. Humble Yourself and Be Lifted (Verse 10)

- A. Humility is the gateway to grace.

Everything God gives in this passage—grace, nearness, cleansing, victory, restoration—comes through humility.

- B. God lifts up the lowly.



Do not despise the low place. God does His best lifting from the lowest ground.

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