



## Grace Brings A New Order

October 22, 2017

BI – Grace breaks down barriers

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### Intro

What is the most secure building in the world?

-The White House? A nuclear missile silo – Titan missile museum was but wasn't

-<ppt picture ft knox> Would you believe Fort Knox ? One of the most secure places in the world

Why is it so secure – because its estimated to hold roughly 2.3% of all the gold ever refined throughout human history. During World War II, the depository held the original U.S. Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. It held the reserves of European countries and key documents from Western history. For example, it held the Crown of St. Stephen, part of the Hungarian crown jewels, given to American soldiers to prevent them from falling into Soviet hands. The repository held one of four copies (exemplifications) of Magna Carta, which had been sent for display at the 1939 New York World's Fair, and when war broke out, was kept in the US for the duration

What makes it so secure – there are so many barriers to thwart people from getting in

**The Vault Door** - The most famous, if not the largest, vault door order came from the Federal government in 1935 for the newly constructed gold depository at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Both the vault door and emergency door were 21-inches thick and made of the latest torch- and drill-resistant material. The main vault door weighed 20 tons and the vault casing was 25-inches thick

The facility is ringed with fences and is guarded by the United States Mint Police. The Depository premises are within the site of Fort Knox, a US Army post, allowing the Army to provide additional protection. The Depository is protected by layers of physical security, alarms, video cameras, microphones, mine fields, barbed razor wire, electric fences, heavily armed guards, and the Army units based at Fort Knox, including unmarked Apache helicopter gunships of 8/229 Aviation based at Godman Army Airfield, the 19th Engineer Battalion, and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division, totaling 30,000 soldiers, with associated tanks, armored personnel carriers, attack helicopters, and artillery<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Bullion\\_Depository](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Bullion_Depository)

As much as I'd like to get in their and take a look, its not happening. There barriers are to much to get through.

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If we think that is a huge barrier to cross, can you imagine how great the barriers are that separate us from God because of our sin?

### **Perfect relationship with God – Eden**

When we were created everything was perfect in the beginning. Our relationships with each other and more importantly our relationship with God. Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect relationship with God. They were free to come to Him and enjoy His presence. There were no barriers. And yet that all changed, if you've been in church for any short period of time you've heard the story of the fall.

There was one thing they were told not to do, to eat of a tree in the garden. Satan appearing as a snake, came and tempted them to eat of it, and they did, disobeying God. When God does show up following this action – they hide. Their perfect relationship with Him was destroyed. Genesis 3:8 puts this way –

***Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.***

Everything changed for humanity that day, and we've been trying to recover from it, on our with no success. We lost direct access to God because of our sins. Isaiah 59:1-2 puts it this way. <ppt verse>

***Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.***

**<ppt black>**A barrier was put in place between us and God. And it's one that we cannot conquer on our own efforts. God understood our natural inclination to try and do it on our own and that's why He gave Israel the Mosaic Law.

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## **The Futility of the Old Order | Hebrews 9:2-7**

God gave the Mosaic Law or what is commonly just called the Law to Moses while the nation of Israel was wandering in the wilderness between their release from captivity in Egypt and their entrance in to the Promise Land. God gave them the Law for several reasons. But one important one was, what it takes to destroy the barrier between God and man on your own. It describes what it takes for humanity to try and gain access to God by our own actions.

The law contained 613 commands that must be followed. It was broken down into several different categories to be followed by the nation and govern their worship of God. It was composed of the 10 commandments (which we all our probably very familiar with, the don't murder, don't want your neighbors junk, I Mean stuff..etc). It also had the ordinances and the worship system. Included in the worship system were rules governing the priesthood, the tabernacle and later the temples, the offerings and the festivals. These can be found in Exodus 20-40, and Leviticus 1-7, and 23.

There were quite a few laws covering what would make person clean or unclean. Why was this important, because you couldn't come into the outer courts of the tabernacle or later the temple if you were unclean.

There were quite a few things that would make you unclean. Here are just a few random ones  
-If you touched a corpse, you would be declared unclean and couldn't participate in worship for 7 days. Numbers 5 & 9.

-If a person died in your tent, then all who were in the tent would be unclean for a week –  
Number 19:14

-You could spread your uncleanness. If an unclean person touched a clean person, they would be unclean until evening, Leviticus 15:7-8

-If an unclean person touched a pot, that pot was unclean and had to be destroyed – Leviticus 15:12

-Even if you accidentally touched something that was unclean, then you were considered unclean – Leviticus 5:3-6

-Various skin diseases would make you unclean (think leprosy) and would cause you to have live outside the camp and must announce to those who came near you that were unclean – Lev 13

There were many more ways that you could be declared unclean.

Once you were unclean the process to become clean again required work

When a person could be declared clean, they would go and have a priest kill a bird, dip another bird in the blood of the first, sprinkle the blood on the person and then release the bird. Lev 14

All of this might offend our sensibilities but remember who we are approaching, a Holy God. Holiness means be to be set apart. How would we hope to approach God if we are not set apart as well. Being unclean would not set you apart. The nation did all this so that they would be separate from the world around them, and constantly reminded that they needed to be pursuing God.

Think about how often they must have failed these kind of things, how often would we fail these kinds of things? The sacrifices being offered in the Tabernacle and the Temples must have been constant!

The way the tabernacles and the temples were prescribed to be constructed created barriers between the people (who were His chosen people) and God.

<ppt picture of temple>

There was the outer courts where all clean people could go in the tabernacle. The nation would gather out here to see the priests offer the sacrifices for the nation on the altar. But this was as far as the people of the nation could go. When the temples were built, the separation got even more specific. There was a court of the gentiles, that gentiles could go into but no further. There was a court of women, and that was as far as the women were allowed to go. There was the outer court and that was as far as the ordinary men were allowed to go. Do you notice what's happening? The closer you get to the main structure of the temple, the more selective it is who gets to go there, the more barriers that are being put into place.

The temple structure itself was divided into two rooms. Hebrews 9:2-7 describes how these rooms functioned. <ppt verse>

***<sup>2</sup>A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place.<sup>3</sup> Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup> which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. <ppt verse>***

***<sup>6</sup>When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. <sup>7</sup> But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.***

<ppt map>

In the outer room, the holy place, the Levitical priests were allowed, and they would carry out the lighting of the lampstand and the changing out of the show bread. But if you weren't a priest, then you weren't getting in here.

The next room was called the Holy of Holies. It was a room that was a perfect cube and housed the Ark of Covenant (when it was in the possession of Israel, the tabernacle and the 1<sup>st</sup> or Solomon's temple, it was lost during the exile to Babylon and didn't return for the second temple, the one that existed at the time of Jesus). This was a room that was to be a place that was to be where God appeared. In fact God said that He would appear as a cloud over the Mercy seat on the Ark, which was a representation of His throne in Heaven. <ppt

>verse> Leviticus 16:2

***The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.***

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No one was to go into this room. If you went into the room, you died, no exception except for the high priest on the day of atonement. The holy place and the holy of holies (or most holy place as other translations called it) was separated by a big thick curtain. It was another barrier between God and people. This veil according to tradition was about 4 inches thick, scripture doesn't elaborate on the veil, but it was big.

Once a year the high priest was allowed into this room on the day of atonement to make a sacrifice.

***Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on its horns. This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the Lord. Exodus 30:10***

***But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. Hebrews 9:7***

The day of atonement was a festival in which the high priest would make a sacrifice on the altar and then take some blood from that slaughtered animal. He would take that blood and sprinkle it on the ark to signify an offering for the sins of the nation as a whole.

Tradition has it that the high priest would wear a bell on his belt and a rope on attached to his ankle. That way if he was judged to be unclean the other priests would know. The bell would jingle as he would move around, so they knew he was still alive. And if the jingling would stop, then they knew he was struck dead and they would have a way to recover the body without violating the sanctity of the holy of holies.

Can you imagine trying to follow all these different commandments to try? It feels futile, like we'll never make it on our own. **<ppt verse>** In fact the author of Hebrews (10:1,4) tells it was ***The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. <sup>4</sup> It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.***

**<ppt verse>**

Now your probably thinking that's great, thanks for the history lesson Scott, but we are not in the OT times and we don't have to worry about making sacrifices, how does affect my life now? And that is a great question.

While we are justified we still have a sin nature and we often will create barriers in the church to people coming and hearing the Gospel.

There are things that we can do with our actions now that can create barriers to people coming into church and even more from deciding to follow Jesus.

**-Hypocrisy** – This is a charge that is always leveled at Christians, wither if its deserved or not. I know that this side of eternity we are not perfect, that we are still working out our salvation as Paul would say, but there shouldn't be a noticeable difference from who we are Sunday to how we act the rest of the week.

Think about the example that Paul gives about the church at Corinth in chapter 11 of 1 Corinthians (11:21). They were having agape feasts where communion was being severed as part of what we would call a potluck, and there were poor people who were going away hungry and the rich people were going home drunk. Imagine the barriers these sorts of actions would create for people wanting to come and see what it means to be a Christ follower.

**-Preference issues** – We all have opinions on what we like (like which music to play hymn or hillson), and sometimes those opinions can be very strong, but they are just preferences, and when we let those get in the way of the Gospel, they become barriers. Tom Rainer<sup>2</sup>, the president of Lifeway Christian Resources wrote a blog post a while back and asked people to contribute actual things that churches have fought over. Some of these are funny, but then sad when you think about it.

*-Argument over the appropriate length of the worship pastor's beard*

*-Fight over whether or not to build a children's playground or to use the land for a cemetery*

*-A church dispute of whether or not to install restroom stall dividers in the women's restroom*

*-A church argument and vote to decide if a clock in the worship center should be removed*

*-A 45-minute heated argument over the type of filing cabinet to purchase: black or brown; 2, 3, or 4 drawers*

*-A petition to have all church staff clean shaven*

*-A dispute over whether the worship leader should have his shoes on during the service*

*-Business meeting arguments about whether the church should purchase a weed eater or not. It took two business meetings to resolve*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://thomrainer.com/2015/11/twenty-five-silly-things-church-members-fight-over/>



-Some church members left the church because one church member hid the vacuum cleaner from them. It resulted in a major fight and split

-An argument over whether the fake, dusty plants should be removed from the podium

**When we start to focus on the rules, we prioritize them over people and that creates even more barriers!**

Jesus healing the man at the pool of bethsaide – John 5

**Grace Replaces The Old Order | Romans 7:7, Galatians 3:23-25, Hebrews 10:11-12, 14, Matthew 27:50-51 <ppt verse>**

We get caught in following the rules and the point of the law is proved over and over again. We can not restore our relationship to God on our own. The Law points out our own sinfulness. Romans 7:7 says ***What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet*** Once you’ve broken on law, your guilty of breaking all parts of it James 2:10 tell us.

But the law holds us hostage, we know we are sinful and can’t keep the standards, but this is where grace comes in. <ppt verse> Galatians 3:23-25 tells us ***that Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.***

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Christ coming down and taking on human flesh 2000 years ago was the ultimate act of grace towards humanity. Remember when we talked about being clean vs unclean a few minutes ago? Every time an Israelite broke the law and become unclean, they had to go and offer a sacrifice to cover for their sins/breaking of the law. But the problem was it was never good enough, they always were having to offer another sacrifice. And these sacrifices only covered the outside, they did nothing to change the hearts of those who were offering them.

This is where Jesus comes in, His death on the cross. Romans tells us that the price of sin is death, there has to be an offering of death to cover our sins. Jesus offered Himself in our place on the cross, He took on death so that we don't have to.

Hebrews 10:11-12, & 14 puts it this way **<ppt verse>**. *Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;<sup>12</sup> but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,<sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

Jesus offered Himself in our place on the cross. He became the perfect sacrifice for us and through the act of grace, the barriers between God and man were destroyed. This was symbolized perfectly in the temple. Matthew 27:50-51 says **<ppt verse>** *And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split.*

This was the same temple veil or curtain that separated the holy place from the holy of holies in the temple. The same one that kept the priests on one side (the holy place) and separated them from God on the other side. This was not a tiny curtain. Estimates<sup>3</sup> put the temple veil at a height of at least 60 ft. Did you catch how the curtain was torn? It was torn in two by starting at the top. If we were to try and cut it, with it being 60 plus feet tall, would probably start at the bottom and work our way out. It's significant that it says it was torn in two by starting at the top. This was an act of God tore the curtain. Now you may be thinking, that's cool, God tore a curtain. But think about what it symbolically means. This veil was the barrier between the presence of God and humanity and it was torn. In fact it was torn in 2 the second Jesus died. The very second that the price of sins were paid completely, with the death of Jesus, is the second that the barrier between God and humanity was torn. The gift of grace, Jesus dying on the cross, destroyed the barrier that kept humanity from the Father. Grace destroyed the barrier. **<ppt black>**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/temple-veil-torn.html>

## The New Order

With the temple veil being torn and the barrier between humanity and the Father gone, there are several ways in which that barrier being removed has impact upon our lives now. The first is with our relationship with the Father.

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#### Restored Relationship with the Father<sup>4</sup> | Hebrews 4:16, Romans 8:15, Mark 14:36

The passage we read in Galatians early said that the Law was our Guardian until Christ came. We don't need the law anymore because we have the sacrifice that Jesus offered on the cross, which was himself. If we respond to this gift of grace through faith as the passage in Galatians says, then we adopted as sons and daughters of God. To respond in faith means that we believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again, and that we believe or have faith that His sacrifice was sufficient to cover our sins. Romans 10:9-10 tells us this. When we respond in faith, we are adopted into God's family. Romans 8:15 tells us that **<ppt verse>** *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

This is the same way that Jesus addressed the Father when He was in the Garden, in the hours leading up to His death. This word Abba is one that in the Aramaic to mean a father, but it spoke about the relationship between the child and the father just as much as it means father. This was one of closeness, not a formal word, but one that showed the level of intimacy in the relationship. Because of the barrier being taken out, we can now address God in the same fashion. Our relationship with Him is one of closeness. We have direct access to Him, in the heavenly throne room.

**<ppt verse>** *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need – Heb 4:16*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/let-us-draw-near-to-god>

The author of Hebrews tells us that we can approach the throne of grace with confidence. Notice first that it is not the throne of judgment, but it's the throne of grace. And we can come in with confidence. *Let that sink in for a* minute. We can come into the throne room of the Creator of the universe with confidence. And when we approach, we can find mercy and grace to help us in our times of need.

Imagine if you wanted to meet the president of the United States, no matter who is the office or how you feel about them. Are you going to be able to get in quickly? Nope! There are so many barriers between us and the president. **<ppt white house>** First if you're lucky enough to get into the White House, you have to clear security and I can imagine it is much more thorough than going through the TSA lines at the airport. But getting in there you're not going to get into the Oval Office unless you have been called or have an appointment. And if you were lucky enough to get that, your time with the President would be short. And if you wanted to visit the private residences in the White House to see how they president has decorated them, you can forget it. There are so many barriers in place to keep us from there. And yet imagine if you were the president's child. If you wanted to see dad, cause that's what you would know him as, he was your dad before he was president, you have access to him in ways that no one else has. **<ppt JFK Jr>**

There is this picture that was taken of JFK Jr playing in the Oval Office under the Resolute desk while his dad John F Kennedy was working. There are crazy huge important decisions being made in the office, and yet that didn't matter. Because of who he was, the son of the president, the barriers that kept everyone else away, didn't apply to him. He had access to the president in ways that no one else had. This is what our relationship with God is like now that Jesus died on the cross and destroyed the barriers between us and the Father.

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**Restored Relationships With Each Other | Ephesians 3:5-6, Galatians 3:26-28**

The Jews in the times of Jesus tried to avoid being around Gentiles or anyone who was not a devote Jew like the plague. That is why it was a such a huge event in for Peter to stop and have a meal at the house of Cornelius in Acts 10. He was a Jew and they were forbidden from going into much less eating at a gentile's house. But the cross brought in a new order. Just as barriers were broken down between God and man, barriers were broken down between people as well. This was one of the great mysteries that was not revealed in the OT but as Christ came accomplished the work on the cross. Paul writes in Ephesians 3. **<ppt verse>**

***<sup>5</sup> which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. Eph 3:5-6***

In the body of Christ, or the church, all who belong, there is no distinction in value. All are equal heirs of salvation. Ephesians tells us that both the Jews and Gentiles would be heirs and share in the promise of Christ. Paul breaks down even the barriers even more that don't exist when it comes to value and equal access to salvation.

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***<sup>26</sup> So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28***

In our modern language this would say something like, it doesn't matter if you're from European, Asian or African descent, if you're from the South and speak with a drawl, a farmer from the midwest or a hipster from California, if you're a rich like Bill Gates or you're living below the federal economic poverty level. We are all united in Christ through our faith. This is the new order of brought by Grace.

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How would Jesus treat others? Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) This the same attitude that we should adopted.

## Application - <ppt title>

**Draw Near to God** – We have access to God again! Hebrews tells us that we should draw near to God. First that might mean that you have to take a step of faith and begin a relationship with Him. Romans 10:9-10 tells us that we if we believe in ours heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, we will be saved. It could be said that it's simple as understanding the ABC's

A – Admitting that we need Jesus, we can't do it on our own

B – Believing in Him, trust in His redemptive work on the cross

C – Choosing to follow Him daily

For those who have been following Jesus for a while, who have put their faith in Him. We need to approach the throne of Grace as Hebrews tells us and rely on Him. I know all too often in my own life, it seems I try to work out things on my own and then when that doesn't work I come to Him. He shouldn't be the last resort, but rather the first and only resort.

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**Be reflective of God's Grace** to those around us – This an attitude that we all need to be pursing to show to those in our circles.

## <ppt picture>

Phillip Yancy tells of a bus driver that I think reflects this attitude well.

*There was a front-page article in the San Francisco Chronicle about a metro-transit operator named Linda Wilson-Allen. She loves the people who ride her bus. She knows the regulars. She learns their names. She will wait for them if they're late and then make up the time later on her route.*

*A woman in her eighties named Ivy had some heavy grocery bags and was struggling with them. So Linda got out of her bus driver's seat to carry Ivy's grocery bags onto the bus. Now Ivy lets other buses pass her stop so she can ride on Linda's bus.*

*Linda saw a woman named Tanya in a bus shelter. She could tell Tanya was new to the area. She could tell she was lost. It was almost Thanksgiving, so Linda said to Tanya, "You're out here all by yourself. You don't know anybody. Come on over for Thanksgiving and kick it with me and the kids." Now they're friends.*

*The reporter who wrote the article rides Linda's bus every day. He saido Linda has built such a little community of blessing on that bus that passengers offer Linda the use of their vacation homes. They bring her potted plants and floral bouquets. When people found out she likes to wear scarves to accessorize her uniforms, they started giving them as presents to Linda. ... Think about what a thankless task driving a bus can look like in our world: cranky passengers, engine breakdowns, traffic jams, gum on the seats. You ask yourself, How does she have this attitude? "Her mood is set at 2:30 a.m. when she gets down on her knees to pray for 30 minutes," the Chronicle states. "'There is a lot to talk about with the Lord,' says Wilson-Allen, a member of Glad Tidings Church in Hayward."*

*When she gets to the end of her line, she always says, "That's all. I love you. Take care." Have you ever had a bus driver tell you, "I love you"?<sup>5</sup>*

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**Close in Prayer**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://philipyancey.com/a-dispenser-of-grace>  
<http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Muni-driver-will-make-new-friends-keep-the-old-4797537.php>

