

The Journey

Road Rage

Week 1: LET's GO
Week 2: ROAD TRIP
Week 3: DON'T GO ALONE
Week 4: BUCKLE UP
Week 5: RUMBLE STRIPS
Week 6: DETOURS
Week 7: TRUST THE GPS

TODAY: ROAD RAGE

The Journey sometimes brings us road rage.
Most of you probably have experienced road rage

Stats: Stats tell us that Road Rage is happening all the time

The Google Machine has some cool stats
Consumer Affairs Says
- 92% of Americans report having witnessed road rage in the past year,
- 89% say they've been a victim of aggressive driving at least once.
Nasdaq News
- 32% experienced road rage directed at them
- 22% admitted they themselves felt or acted angrily as a driver.

I am not much of road rager
But am frustration bottler

Do you know someone like this?

I can be calm and collected Steady and even keel
But when I experience offense or frustration
I can stuff it down deep

I can be totally fine
But then when I blow

This Type of reaction is not just frustration—
It shows something deeper about our hearts
So what was really going on?

That is always a good question to ask GOD
I promise he has an answer

So I asked him....God why am I so mad.
He said....**Where is your grace?**

It wasn't the first time has said that to me...
I had been struggling with having grace for people
And this was just another example.

WHY GRACE?

GRACE IS THE ANTIDOTE TO SELFISHNESS AND ANGER

What is Grace?
Grace is unmerited favor—receiving kindness we don't deserve.

Isn't this what the Gospel is all about?

God has extended grace to us lavishes covers us in it
Gives it freely time and time again
Nothing that we have to do to deserve it
and he never withholds it

Even though often times that is what we deserve!!

Because God has extended grace to us, we are called to extend grace to others

Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”

We must be people that give what we have received
We were given Grace now we must return that to others

The alternative to extending grace is the poison of Selfishness and Anger
Grace is the Antidote because selfishness is a poison

Selfishness is at the root of so many sins
“me first,” “my rights,” “I deserve better.”

These thoughts/actions leads us to anger
when others don't conform to our expectations

Grace confronts selfishness by breaking the cycle:
Instead of expecting others to serve us or yield
We serve and yield

This Honesty is life changing
If we can get this the power of this thinking

The freedom from offense and anger if we can trust God at his word

This is so against the grain against culture against our sinful nature

Look what this scripture says

Philippians 2:3 (NIV) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

NLT says “Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.”

THINK OF OTHERS AS BETTER THAN YOURSELVES

This is crazy

God wants us to live in a way that views others as more important

-Our whole culture is set the opposite of that

-People strive for wealth and fame to look and feel better than others

Our Culture Strives to be set apart Look better than
To appear more valuable Not less than
To look more important Not less significant

Philippians 2:3-4 New Living Translation

3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

SOOOOO why did God ask Where is your Grace?

What does Grace have to do with my anger when someone cuts me off?

The problem wasn't that I lost a second of my day
It was was that the drivers actions told me that

HE THOUGHT HE WAS BETTER THAN ME

That's what it triggers.
How dare he, who does he think he is to cut me off?
That isn't an anger issue....its a grace issue

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Grace enables us to look beyond our rights and our immediate desire for vindication
To consider the needs of others—even those who offend us

JESUS MODELED HUMILITY AND GRACE

Philippians 2:5-8 New Living Translation

5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God,[a] he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges[b]; he took the humble position of a slave[c] and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,[d] 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

This is what Jesus did for us What he modeled for us
This is how he tells us to live

Because he did this for us Grace showered on us
 We live for HIM
 Not ourselves
 Not the world
 We live for HIM!!

We Must Give What We have already been given

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

7 For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

This humility is the pattern: Grace flows from humility and emptiness of self

- The root of many sins is seeing our own rights
- Our own pain
- Our own perspective as central or the most important

Then we view everyone else as potential obstacles or threats

Grace says the Gospel has reset the center: CHRIST, not me

The path of grace is not denial of self

- But the proper ordering of self under Christ
- Trusting Him to vindicate, heal, and restore

Not taking it into our own hands!!

PRACTICAL WAYS TO LIVE OUT GRACE

This is like my To Do list What I'm working on

Every Year the staff goes on a short prayer and fasting retreat.

- On that retreat we pray about a word for the year
- The word God gave me for this year....GRACE

1. Remember your own forgiven state
- If God has forgiven much in you, you can afford to forgive in others.

Luke 7:47: “he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

2. Slow your heart & pause
When offense comes (in traffic or in daily life), take a moment—breathe, pray, consider, respond
- Don't react
3. Seek the benefit of the doubt
Assume innocence where possible: Perhaps they are late, distracted, scared, stressed. I don't know the day they are having.
4. Speak love, not accusation
If you must respond, do it gently, not explosively. Use a soft tone, not insults.
5. Value others above self
As Scripture commands: Consider others more significant than yourself.
6. Pray for those who offend you on your Journey
Ask God to bless and guide them.
It is so hard to be mad at someone you are praying for.
7. Lean on the Spirit
We can't do this in our own strength. Ask continually, “Lord, help me show grace now.”

My Prayer in these practical things is
that My reflexes would be recentered on HIM
From Selfishness to Grace

Im Preaching today saying I dont have this I'm working on this!

Why does this matter? Why Grace?

WE MUST KEEP GOD AS THE CENTER

Seeing others as more important is a Christ-centered posture

The Christian life is lived not for self-exaltation
But for Christ's glory

John the Baptist's statement captures this:

John 3:30 “He must increase; I must decrease.”

That posture is the antidote to

Pride

Arrogance

The need to assert ourselves

When we say, “He must increase,” we implicitly say:

-I will step back

-I will not demand my own vindication

-I will yield to Christ being supreme in me and through me

This posture helps us see others not as rivals or threats

But as souls beloved by God

Images of Christ

Worthy of respect and compassion

Even when they offend

James 4:10: “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”

Living humbly does not mean being passive or allowing abuse;

It means trusting God to vindicate

To restore

To work through our faithful, gracious response

GRACE is not optional—it is foundational to the Christian life

We have received freely from God; now we are called to give freely

In the Journey of life we are ambassadors of Christ’s grace

The

world is watching how we respond to offense, frustration, and provocation

Let us commit afresh: *“When insult comes, I will not return it; when someone wrongs me, I will offer grace; when I feel entitled, I will swallow that impulse and pray for the other.”*

May our reflexes be shaped by the cross, not by the flesh.

John 3:30 — “He must increase; I must decrease.”

May that become not just a verse we quote but a posture we live out, so that grace—not selfishness—rules our hearts.