

Intro: *Grace is our medication.* Sin is like an infection. The greater the infection, the more medication we need and get. Demand determines the supply. *Gospel Economics.* Sin increases, grace increases. Gotta find the right medication. Sometimes you try stuff that doesn't work. You gotta find the right stuff, then increase it to take care of the extent of the problem. (I know some of y'all are anti-medication - so just substitute vitamins, supplements and oils in where necessary to make the illustration relevant for you). :-)!

Thesis: "Because of God's grace, we are free from the penalty & power of sin"

I. Dead to Sin (1-11)

- A. **Teach & Preach grace like that**, and the natural question is "then why not keep sinning?". Especially religious people, naysayers. For those who actually live by grace, understand grace, and have experienced the power of grace as a medication for sin, **it's a ridiculous question.**
- B. **Good Company.** Luther, Whitefield, Wycliffe, Augustine, Tim Keller, Jack Miller, etc. :-)
- C. **You're dead to that!** Sin has no power over you. No more penalty from sin. **"Dead to me."**
- D. **"Consider yourself dead."** I know it doesn't feel like it, but U are! Consider it! Believe it! Think it!
- E. **Old Self/Man/Adam.** Not who I am anymore; who I want to be. Leads to death. Feeling Dead.

ILLUSTRATION: *Cancer.* We probably could all say we hate cancer. It's a terrible result of the Fall. So generally, yes, we all hate cancer. But when you've experienced cancer, gone through treatments first hand, you hate it even more. Or watched a loved one suffer. Even More. Or die! Way more! Your hatred of something is determined in part by how much pain/suffering/loss it's cause in your life. Grace hates sin because we love Jesus. Jesus hates sin, cause Him grief, suffering and ultimately his death. My Sin!

- F. **Grace Hates Sin & Loves Jesus.** "If you love me...you WILL keep my commandments." Not: "Ok, if I keep his commandments, I'll prove that I love Him more." NO. Stop! He said if you love Him, not yourself. **So then how do we love Jesus more? By experiencing/seeing His love**

APPLICATION:

- 1) **The grace of Jesus will not let you continue in sin if you belong to Him.** The Spirit will make you miserable. Anxious. Guilty. Troubled. Nervous. Conviction. Suffering. **Friend: Worst 4 years of his life.** Every night. "God! I'm sorry!" *Constant state conviction.* Mercy! **If you know, you know.**
- 2) **Prayer life suffers too. Non-existent privately, fake and manufactured publicly. Pride. Lies.**
- 3) **I want you imagine with me for a second.** God loves so much. Sent His Son. Son came willing. He lived and died agonizing death, suffered God's wrath for our sin. Every single one. And the more we have, the more pain/suffering he endured for us. Past/Present/Future. And He promises, whatever sins you ever commit will be forgiven because I suffered for them on the Cross. But every time you sin it cause me more pain. But I take it, because I love you. "Wow. That's great! Thanks! So every time I sin, it'll be forgiven?" "Yes." And every time I sin "It cause you more pain on the cross?" Yes. "But you did that willingly because of your love and grace?" Yes. "No matter how much?" No matter how much. "Great. Well since you're so loving and gracious and forgiving, if it's alright with you, I'm just gonna keep sinning." NO! You're not gonna think that. You're gonna say: "O God! I hate my sin! I wish I could kill it! But I keep going back to it! It's killing me! I know it! But my flesh keeps pulling me back. I need your helping fighting this old self. This body of death and sin. My flesh. I'm at war. Help me please! I can't do it alone!"
- 4) **Repentance & Faith. Believe the Gospel.** I'm human with fleshly tendencies. Going to continue to struggle with sin, and even specific habitual sins, until the day I die. But the fact that I hate them, and I don't to continue in them is a healthy sign that I'm alive in Christ and dead to sin. That I'm under grace. And Jesus tells me that I'm forgiven no matter what. And that He loves me no matter what. And because of that, my desire to get better is rooted in His love and grace. Not my own self-hatred and self-persecution. I'm a child of God. A beloved Son. And I am getting better by His grace. Amen.

II. Living by Grace (12-14)

A. **No longer Under Law. But under grace.** How does that help us live free from sin?

B. **The law was never intended to change our hearts.** Only to diagnose our problem.

ILLUSTRATION: Tests. Exams. Studies. "Oh man! That's bad! Look at that one! That tumor. That infection. That mass. That wound. Bleeding. Oh there's another one!" "Stop telling me what's wrong and tell me what you're going to do about it!" Stop diagnosing me. Stop examining me. That's the law/grace.

C. **If we're still under law, we're under condemnation.** If we're under grace, we're under Jesus's righteousness and sacrifice. His obedience to the law and his justification of our hearts by faith.

D. The law has no power over me, I'm under grace. Grace tells me I'm forgiven. No matter what.

APPLICATION:

1) **Accusation:** "Drunk!" "Sluggard!" "Pornographer!" "Pervert!" "Glutton!" "Loser!" "NO I'M NOT!" I'm not any of those things. Even if I've done those things and continue to struggle with them, I'm not my sin and my failures. I'm a child of the King. A beloved Son of God. And Jesus is my righteousness.

2) **SHAME.** *Healthy Shame vs. Overactive Shame.* "Forgiven." "Loved"

3) **Grace Personified.** Counseling. Chair exercise. **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.** Grace personified say to you. You're forgiven. No matter what you do. You're loved. You're debt has been paid. You're not you're sin. You're a Loved Son. Grace has been personified, His Name is Jesus. **Titus 2:11-15.**

III. Free in Christ (15-23)

A. **You no longer identify with your sin.** You're Free. You don't identify with it.

B. **"From the Heart"** *We want to obey. We want to repent. We want to get better. We hate our sin.*

C. **Heart Transplant. We love Jesus.** *All because we've had a heart change.*

D. **We have a Kind Master.** *Jesus. "Yoke easy. Burden Light. Not harsh. He serves too.*

ILLUSTRATION: Frederick Douglas. Slave. Sold. Kind Master. He was wrong.

E. **He became a slave for us.** *"I want to serve him. Live for him."*

F. **Wages. 4:4.** *What we've earned. We get paid. Deserve. Working toward. Earned.*

APPLICATION: God in his grace turns our temptations into growth in grace.