How Grace Works

Tony Mauck

INTRODUCTION

- We need to know how grace works.
- Grace is our word. And while it is the subject of much abuse in the religious world, let us not let them take that word from us.
- And we should never be ashamed to speak of grace or apologize for it in any way.

1 What Is Grace Exactly?

2 Corinthians 8:9; Ephesians 1:7; Titus 2:11

- The old acrostic works well. God's riches at Christ's expense.
- For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor. That you through his poverty might become rich.
- It is tied to the very character of God.
- It is God's charitableness toward men.
- And so the grace of God is simply all that God has done to bring people to salvation and to enjoy the riches of that.
- The grace of God has appeared unto all men. But not all men receive the benefits of his grace.

2 Grace Can Be Abused

Romans 3:8; Galatians 5:13; Jude 1:3–4

- Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? May it never be. How shall we who have died to sin still live in it?
- Do not turn it into an opportunity for the flesh or a covering for evil, but through love serve one another.
- Any view of grace that promotes sin in any way is not consistent with what grace really is all about.
- We must not justify transgression on the basis that grace is going to cover it.
- Grace is not God's prerogative to ignore our sins, but God's power to eradicate our sins.
- Examine yourselves carefully to see whether or not you be in the faith.

3 Not Grace, but Assurance and Mercy

2 Peter 1:3–11; 2 Timothy 1:16–18; 2 Timothy 3:14

- What am I going to do with guilt? Grace is just going to have to cover it. But really, we're making a mistake, tying this to grace.
- Grace has already been provided to its full. The issue now is our assurance before him.
- Salvation is a striving issue. It is a mercy issue. It is a trust issue.

- Strive to enter by the narrow door. Many will desire to enter and will not be able.
- Continue in the things that you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them.
- We must not relegate everything to a mercy proposition.

4 Stretch Yourself Until It Hurts

Romans 8:13

- Stretch yourself until it hurts. The way of the cross leads home.
- Where you fail, don't wobble in the failure.
- Have you constructed a plan to defeat those areas of failure in your life?
- Have you asked God to help you and to give you strength to defeat those things?
- I'm not going to quit. The Lord doesn't want me to quit. And I need to stay focused on heaven.

THE CHALLENGE

And I plead with you, beloved. Do not receive the grace of God in vain.

MY NOTES