



The Righteousness of Grace

Focus God's grace is not just for salvation, it's for each and every day of our lives.

Open What was your favorite story when you were a child? Why?

Read Grace is the foundation of the Good News of the gospel, yet it is one of the most misunderstood, misapplied and misrepresented tenets of Christianity. The way we understand and apply grace affects absolutely every aspect of our relationship with God, the church, others and ourselves. We're all overwhelmed by grace when we come to understand Jesus' redeeming work on the cross, give our lives to Him and become Christ-followers. But God's grace is not just for salvation; it's meant to infiltrate and become the foundation for every part of our lives. In fact, the Bible goes so far as to say that if Christians live under the law, then it's as if Jesus' death on the cross was all for nothing and is worthless!!

God's grace changes everything.

Talk 1. The word "grace" can be used in many different contexts. What are a few examples?

When used in a Christian context, what does the word "grace" mean to you?

2. What is the difference between grace and legalism?

3. If our understanding of God's grace affects the way we see God, others and ourselves, how does legalistic living specifically affect each of these relationships?
4. Righteousness is "right standing with God." What do we have to do to become righteous? (See Romans 4:3 and 5:17).
5. Why is it so easy and so common to live with a "works" or "performance" mentality after you become saved? Why is this a problem?

Live

1. When we get saved, we rely 100% on God's grace for our salvation (His righteousness) and 0% on our own good works (our righteousness). Yet as we just discussed, many Christians begin to rely upon good works for their righteousness after they are saved.

Take a moment to ask the Lord to show you what your current "ratio" is in your daily life. How do you actually apply your understanding of God's grace? Do you depend 50% upon His grace and 50% on your good works? Is it 60/40? Be honest with yourself. How often are you putting pressure on yourself to "perform" and how much are you relying upon His grace towards you to be righteous or to receive God's approval?

2. Get into groups of two or three.
 - a. Share what number the Lord showed you concerning your reliance upon His grace for day-to-day living.
 - b. Is there something that comes to mind that you know is keeping you from living with 100% reliance upon His grace? A fear? A past experience?

Pray

In pairs, ask the Lord to set you free from the things that hinder you from living with 100% reliance upon His grace. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you fresh insight and understanding regarding God's grace as you journey through this series—to reveal Himself and His goodness to you in an "overwhelming" way. Also, pray for any needs represented in your group.