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Radical Grace With Radical Faith!

Biblical Text: Ephesians 1:5-8; Romans 5-8; Gal. 3:26-29

Romans 1:16 – the power of the gospel. Nearly too good to be true. The Gospel of Grace describes the way we relate with God. God is offering forgiveness of sin and opening the way of relating apart of good works. Understanding and applying the true gospel of grace. Acts 20:24

We are going to understand and apply pure and unmixed radical grace. The moment you say its Jesus plus something you cancel out the gospel of grace.

Primary Purpose: Grace is connected and essential to fulfill our main purpose. Gods primary purpose is that we should be made in His image. He is bringing many sons to glory. (Heb. 2:10) Grace is the tangible, substantial, experiential goodness of God through Christ – who IS Grace. Gods love and grace are inseparable. He does everything for us because of love, and everything He did for us He did by Grace. Grace is the indwelling Power & Presence of Christ that turns us into beloved “sons/daughters”.

Grace can never be separated from a trust-based RELATIONSHIP with the Godhead. We are saved (made into Christ’s likeness) by grace through faith. Faith is the way we access Grace. We do not get grace through works. “Grace” is translated from the Greek word “charis”- the root meaning is “gift”, “grace”, “thanksgiving”, “joy”. Because grace is a “gift”, by its very definition, it cannot be earned or deserved through “works”. Eph. 2:1-10 Grace is a free gift from God that we receive by faith.

Indwelling Christ – Our Primary Focus: The focus of our minds and hearts must always be upon Christ, who is Grace, and NOT upon ourselves – how bad or good we behave. When the focus becomes our “self”, we will fall into self-righteousness. Focusing upon ourselves and our performance leads to very dangerous deception: 1. Unrighteousness – which can be described as “hedonism” and will result in enslavement, addictions, guilt, shame, condemnation. 2. Self-righteousness – which is religious performance in order to be right, accepted, and loved by God and people. Both are expressions of pride and unbelief, the two root sins of Adam & Eve at the Fall.

Through Faith & Humility we live by the Life of Another – Jesus Christ who is Grace. Gal. 2:20; 1 Jn. 4:4; Col. 1:27-28; Gal. 4:19

What Exactly Is The Gospel of Grace? Acts 20:24

How Will You Understand & Apply The Gospel of Grace? What will be the result of placing your faith in Christ and receiving His gift of righteous and grace? Romans 5:17

What does it mean to “come boldly before the throne of grace”? Hebrews 2:16

Graham Cooke writes, “All the language around Grace has to be rich. It has to be eloquent. It has to contain superlatives. God ties Grace to His own nature and He ties Grace to His relationship with us. Listen, Grace is not just undeserved favor. If that is all Grace is, the Jesus never had any, because the Bible says He grew in Grace and favor with God. If we are only tying Grace to something that is wrong about us, there is something wrong about our understanding of Grace. Grace is tied to the nature of God. It is not tied to your condition. This is my definition of Grace: ‘Grace is the empowering Presence of God that enables you to become the person that God sees every time He looks at you.’ His Grace is what makes us acceptable to God in Jesus. Grace combines redemption and forgiveness. It covers our present/past beautifully. It makes us open to the impressive future that belongs to Christ.”

The Gospel axis. At one end of the axis is legalism, the teaching that asserts or the spirit that implies we can save ourselves by how we live. At the other end is antinomianism or, in popular parlance, relativism — the view that it doesn't matter how we live; that God, if he exists, loves everyone the same. But the gospel, as we will argue in a later chapter, is neither legalism nor relativism. We are saved by faith and grace alone, but not by a faith that remains alone. True grace always results in changed lives of holiness and justice. It is, of course, possible to lose the gospel because of heterodoxy. That is, if we no longer believe in the deity of Christ or the doctrine of justification, we will necessarily slide toward relativism. Tim Keller

The Amazing Gospel Of Grace!

Because of his great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in

Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph. 4-9

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 Cor. 15:10
And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all. Gal. 1:6

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. Acts 4:32-33
However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Acts 20:24

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Heb. 4:15-16

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:15-21

Transformation Through Grace: God wants to radically transform us into the likeness of Christ. This only happens by the supernatural grace of God and nothing else. Romans 5:17 We RECEIVE. We don't ACHIEVE....1. the abundant provision of grace AND 2. the gift of righteousness.

Recently, I received what I believe is a prophetic word from God, which can easily be confirmed by God's written Word – the Bible. Here is what I heard God say to my spirit, “The level of the Wine of my Holy Spirit that I will pour into the Rock Tribe “wineskin”, this heart-connected family-

of-churches, will be determined by the depth of understanding and application you have regarding the gospel of grace!" I immediately understood that God was inviting not just the Rock Tribe, but the Body of Christ, into a much greater understanding of our need to live purely in the supernatural grace and love of God. We are to ask the Holy Spirit to help us identify and eradicate all forms of religious pride, performance, and unbelief.

Most every believer agrees with the doctrine of grace, and certainly everyone wants to experience more love for God and others. However, in real daily life we often end up relying on our self-effort to become more righteous. God is inviting us to trust in Him fully, in His powerful grace and love. He doesn't want us to be a mixture of grace and law. This mixture is toxic. We must live by the pure grace of God in every area of our lives. Jesus IS grace and love. Everything, and I mean everything in the kingdom of God, is supernatural and, therefore, requires God's amazing grace. We really are saved and made into the likeness of Christ by grace through faith...plus nothing else!

God wants to pour out His Holy Spirit in a mighty way upon the Rock Tribe and the whole Body of Christ. He wants to entrust us with the supernatural fruit of the Spirit (love), wisdom and revelation of the Spirit, and the power of the Spirit. So to insure that we can steward this ever-increasing outpouring, Father wants us to realize that all of this goodness is His grace and is not given because of our own righteousness or works. We do not earn or deserve God's grace. It is a free gift from God that we receive by faith. To believe otherwise, will cause us to become self-righteous, elite, and judgmental toward ourselves and others. How do you know if you are operating outside of grace? Ask yourself a few questions: Do I feel guilty and condemned when I sin? Do I get frustrated and angry with myself and others when things aren't going right? Do I try to live a better life using my own strength? Am I guilty of "sin management", doing my best to not sin? Do I get offended, disgusted, critical, accusatory, or judgmental toward myself or others?

There is nothing more dangerous than to have a genuinely heart-connected spiritual family (tribe) that has BOTH the real grace of love MIXED with toxic religious attitudes like offense, judgment, condemnation, criticism, accusation, slander, jealousy, rejection, division, distrust, selfish ambition, etc. Hearts that are soft, open, and connected are only to mediate the grace and love of God, never negativity like offense or judgment. The family of God needs to be the safest place on earth! Father wants pure grace and love, flowing through rightly connected hearts, between the members of His family.

Grace is never a license to sin. Quite the opposite, it is God's grace that enables us to live holy. Grace is God's supernatural power that displaces sin while at same time infusing us with the communicable attributes of God.

Let us then approach God's **throne of grace** for everything all the time! (Heb. 4:16) God is forever imparting His grace & love. Christ's desire is to "expand" Himself inside of you/us, to infuse you/us with His grace and love, transforming you into His likeness. So what is God's invitation to us? To believe and receive God's grace in all situations all the time!

Saint Iganitius, an early church father, made this his primary prayer, "God, give me your love and grace. That is enough for me."