

What is Grace?

Grace- GK=Charis-> Goodwill, Loving Kindness, Favor.

Grace is commonly defined as "unmerited favor," or the "giving of that which we do not deserve.

Is a Sinner commanded to do anything to receive God's Grace?

Does "Unmerited" mean I don't have to do anything but receive it?

Is His Grace forced on us whether we want it or not? Is it Irresistible?

Let's see what the Bible says about Grace.

First of all we must see that God owes us NOTHING!

John 1:16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

Many times grace is confused with mercy.

Mercy = "withholding that which we *do* deserve." **Mercy is a Part of God's grace.**

Our sins have separated us from a Holy God, and there is no amount of doing-good that could correct the penalty of our sinful actions and depraved nature. No man can claim that they deserve grace. No one can say. "They are in the good graces of God, because they deserve it", based upon their own goodness. Anyone that would claim that is deceived and has not experienced the Grace of God. (Rom 6:23). The Holy Spirit convicts for a reason; Sin has separated us from a Holy God. (1 Jn 1:9)

The very offer of forgiveness is Grace. **The condition is faith**; a faith that acknowledges the deserved condemnation of sin, a faith that acknowledges God's Righteousness, turns from sin in faith and believes the Gospel that Jesus' death was atonement for their sins. Grace would not be needed unless there was something in the nature of God that prevents us from relationship with Himself.

God's Holiness<->Sin's separating. Sin is the cause of this Separation.

God desires fellowship with man.

Why does God have Grace on them? He is giving them time to REPENT.

Grace by nature has always had the potential to lead people to a concept of license. Rom 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Over and over again, I see people using this definition as **an excuse to continue in sin** and not repent. "I know this is wrong", they say; "yet I going to do this anyway, and I will just ask God to forgive me." Is it true that I can continue in sin and just ask for God's Grace to cover it?

"Grace is exalted-conduct diminished, forgiveness flourishes-obedience ignored."

Using the saying of, "It's all covered by grace" as a blanket to dismiss the seriousness of sin.

"This cheap grace has been no less disastrous to our own spiritual lives. Instead of opening up the way to Christ it has closed it.

Instead of calling us to follow Christ, it has hardened us in our disobedience."

This "grace" is viewed as an unlimited repository of funds that flow to the sinners account to **immediately excuse all immoral actions of the believer.**

It is designed to diffuse and excuse failures and sin.

~The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer~ Pgs 43-55

How is it we receive the Grace of God? **By Faith**

Rom 5:2 ... **we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand...

Faith = Looking to, Trusting in, and relying upon God.

Requires Humility on my part.

James 4:6 ..."God resists the proud, but **gives grace to the humble.**"

The question is not whether there is enough grace for my sin; it is whether I will humble myself enough to confess my sin and repent from it.

Prov 3:34 Surely He scorns the scornful, but **gives grace to the humble.**

Grace is given to those who desire to do what is Right and not continue to do wrong.

Rom 5:20-21 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 6:1-2

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Rom 6:14-15 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

Ps 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Walking uprightly means walking in Obedience to God's Commands.

Rom 4:16 Therefore it (righteousness) is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all. My doing what is right is to be by Faith.

I am obedient because I believe what God says.

Rom 1:5 ...we have received grace ... for obedience to the faith...

Grace is Given to those who Love God.

Eph 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Sincerity- GK=aphtharsia- perpetuity, in purity.

Comes from a Word that means undecaying, not corrupting.

NLT= May God's grace be upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

We see that God freely gives grace.

Unmerited, Unearned, undeserved Favor; does not mean "UN-looked" for. Matsa

Gen 6:8 Noah found (matsa') Grace in the eyes of the Lord

The Hebrew Word Masta means to find something that you have been looking for.

Gen 6:8 Noah found (matsa') Grace in the eyes of the Lord. V.9 "This is the "history" of Noah..." Noah was OBEDIENT TO THE CAMMANDS OF THE LORD. Noah found grace because he was seeking it. See Jer 29:13 Ezek 22:30,

The principle of First Mention. = The first Place in the Bible where a word is mentioned gives us a key to the full meaning of the Word.

Gen 6:8 first mention of the Word Grace.

So we see that Grace is given by God to those:

1. Who will **humble** themselves enough to seek it.
2. Who will **look** to God in Faith.
3. Who **repent** from doing wrong & desire to do what is right.
4. Who **Love** God. Those who willfully disobey God cannot say they are a "Lover of God"

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

John 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

The problem is not, whether or not **the Grace of God will cover your sin**; it is whether or not we will humble ourselves enough repent from my sin and receive it. When we tell people, "Don't worry, God's grace will cover your sin". We try to comfort them, but are we not encouraging them to remain in their sin. They have no reason to repent from sin, if they think God is going to continue to bless their lives anyway. **The idea that grace "covers it all" is indirectly stating that grace does not convert the believer, but the very sin that is stated as bringing death is now stated to be somehow impotent. Logically, the "Christian" can sin with impunity.**

The Definition of Grace being, "Unmerited, Unearned, Underserved Favor with God" is that it **can create an atmosphere of deception about repenting and overcoming sin**, because one accepts the fallacy that he receives God's Grace based on nothing he has to do or change in his life, and that overcoming his sins and the temptations to sin is not his responsibility.

The "Gift" of Grace

A very common statement is to speak of grace as being a gift; an object.

It would be better defined as the *means*. We see statements that speak of grace as a gift like, 'we are in the grasp of grace,' 'we are covered by grace.' **These speak of grace as a possessed object instead of the means of grace** that is conveyed. This idea of grace being the "gift" is based upon an erroneous interpretation of **Ephesians 2:8**. "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God.**"

The "gift" in the passage here is "salvation," which is applied by "grace" through the condition of "faith." Faith= Looking to, trusting in & relying upon

See what the Bible says about the Gift. "For the wages of sin is death: but **the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ or Lord.**" (Rom. 6:23). **Here we see the "gift" is eternal life- not grace.** "But not as the offense, **so also is the free gift.** For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more **the grace of God, and the gift by grace,** which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded to many." (Rom. 5:15).

The gift is *by* grace; it is not *grace*.

Can I live anyway I want and expect God to pour out Grace upon me because I believe in Jesus Christ? Some pastors teach that you should expect God to bless you in spite of your actions or obedience to God.

Jude 1:4-5

Jude 1:4-5 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Lewdness = deliberate immoral and sinful behavior.
God's grace does not permit lewdness

Their actions proved they did not believe God!

Jude 1:4-5 NLT I say this because some godless people have wormed their way in among you, saying that God's forgiveness allows us to live immoral lives. The fate of such people was determined long ago, for they have turned against our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Eph 5:8-10 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

The greatest tragedy today is that so many are trusting in a grace that God has never offered to anyone. We are indeed saved by grace—but it is a grace that offers us an opportunity to repent and become committed disciples who love God with all our hearts and keep His commandments. God's grace forgives and transforms those who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the Purpose of God's Grace or Mercy in our lives?

So that we might repent and turn from our sin and follow God.

Not to remain where I am, continuing in my sin.

The Grace of God is Available for when you fall and not for when you jump! ~Bob Coy~

Rom 2:1-13 NLT You may be saying, "What terrible people you have been talking about!" But you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you do these very same things. And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. Do you think that God will judge and condemn others for doing them and not judge you when you do them, too? Don't you realize how kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Or don't you care? Can't you see how kind he has been in giving you time to turn from your sin? But no, you won't listen. So you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself because of your stubbornness in refusing to turn from your sin. For there is going to come a day of judgment when God, the just judge of all the world, will judge all people according to what they have done. He will give eternal life to those who persist in doing what is good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and practice evil deeds. There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on sinning--for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good--for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism. God will punish the Gentiles when they sin, even though they never had God's written law. And he will punish the Jews when they sin, for they do have the law. For it is not merely knowing the law that brings God's approval. Those who obey the law will be declared right in God's sight.

True Faith is an Obedient Faith

The Bible always equates obedience to Faith and Disobedience to unbelief.

Rom 4:11-12 And he (Abraham) received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who **believe**, (PAP) though they are uncircumcised, **that righteousness might be imputed to them also**, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but **who also walk in the steps of the faith** which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

What kind of Faith did Abraham have? **An Obedient Faith!**

A biblical story that illustrates the true Grace that God offers.

The woman who was caught in the act of adultery. Read John 8:1-11

- But how much grace did Jesus offer her?
- Was it unlimited and eternal?
- Was Jesus granting her a license to continue sinning?

Thanks to David
Servant of
Shepherdserve.org
for this insight.

Clearly He was not, as He immediately said to her, **"From now on sin no more"** (John 8:11). That was a warning, and it was just another way of saying, **"Repent,"** something Jesus in Luke 13:3 **"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**

Had that adulteress *not* repented, at death she would have encountered a Jesus who was *not* so merciful. Scripture plainly declares:

1 Cor 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you...**

She would have been condemned to hell, finding no grace from Jesus.

Clearly, the grace Jesus offered her on earth was not forgiveness coupled with a license to sin.

Rather, it was a opportunity to repent of sin before she died and was condemned.

Biblical grace is anything but a license to sin.

Have you ever been granted grace by a policeman, for example, who pulled you over for speeding, but who let you off without giving you a ticket? That was grace. But what would have happened if you had thanked him, spun your tires, and took off speeding down the highway singing "Amazing Grace?" You would have quickly discovered that policeman's grace was not only amazing, but also very limited!

Everyone has been "caught in the act" by Jesus, and He is extending the same **grace** to everyone that He did to her. **The Law demands death for our sin**, but Jesus mercifully allows us time and opportunity to repent. **Once we exhaust that allotted time, our "grace period" is over. If, however, we repent during that grace period, Jesus graciously forgives our sin and causes us to be born again. Only those who humble themselves in repentance actually receive His gracious forgiveness.**

The story of the Prodigal Son shows us the same thing. The prodigal's father ran to him, embraced and kissed him even before he could make his confession. The prodigal son, however, had already repented, and his return home and his rehearsed confession were proof of that. How would his father have responded if he had returned in a drunken stupor with a woman in each arm, asking for more money? Surely there would have been no party.

Scripture clearly states that God gives grace to people who meet a **condition**—humbling themselves. **Grace offers another opportunity to meet the expectations.**

The policeman doesn't say to the motorist caught speeding, "O.K. buddy, I'm going to show you some grace...Go ahead and speed all you want from now on!"

Should the person who says, "I am going to sin anyway, and I will ask God for forgiveness when I do it".

Should they expect God's Grace?

Obedience, born of faith, and love for God is not legalism; it is the only proper response to the kind of grace that God is offering. It is not putting people back under the Law. Encouraging people to BE OBEDIENT TO GOD is not LEGALISM. It is GOD'S COMMAND!

Many in the Church today say, "We are not under the Law, but grace", so they can continue in sin. See Antinomianism at the end of this Document.

Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

Paul said, God will give eternal life to those who persevere in doing good (Rom. 2:7).

John Said, "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 John 2:3)

The author the book of Hebrews said, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14).

Rom 1:5 Through Him we have received grace ... for obedience to the faith...

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. "Grace alone does everything" they say, and so everything can remain as it was before. "All for sin could not atone." Well, then, let the Christian live like the rest of the world, let him model himself on the world's standards in every sphere of life, and not presumptuously aspire to live a different life under grace from his old life under sin."

Cheap grace offers a false intimacy because it requires no submission.

~The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer~ Pgs 43-55

Lest you think that the grace of God is only for Obedience and Forgiveness

The Bible tells us that we continually receive the Grace of God.

John 1:16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

1 Tim 1:14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

1 Pet 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Grace doesn't just stop with Salvation. Titus 2:12, Eph 1:8-9, Gen 6:8, Acts 15:11,

Acts 18:27, Eph 2:5-9, 2 Tim 1:9

The Grace of God is involved in:

Convicting Gal 1:6-7

Forgiving- Ex 34:9, Eph 1:7

Teaching Titus 2:12

Strengthening Acts 20:32, 1 Cor 15:10, 2 Cor 12:9, 2 Tim 2:1, Heb 13:9, 1 Pet 5:10,12

Obeying Rom 1:5, Heb 2:9

Justifying Rom 3:24, Titus 3:7

Enlightening 2Cor 8:7-9 Gal 1:15-16, Eph 3:1-3

Ability to Live Godly 2 Cor 1:12, Titus 2:11-14

Ability to Give. 2 Cor 8:7-9

Ability to do Good Works 1 Cor 1:4-6, 2 Cor 9:8, Eph 3:7, Eph 3:8, Heb 12:28

The gifts of God are by Grace Rom 12:6, Rom 15:15-16. 1 Cor 3:10

God revealing Himself to us. Ex 33:13

Causes us to be Accepted by God Eph 1:5-6

Antinomianism

I do not know who to give credit for the portion of the paper.

Have you ever wondered why Antinomians are on the rise? You say, "I've never even heard the word, much less wondered why they were on the rise."

It might surprise you to know that Godly men like A.W. Tozer, Charles G. Finney, D.L. Moody, Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley, Menno Simons, George Whitefield and others were all quite familiar with not only what it is, but with it's unusual effects on the Church of God.

SO WHAT'S IT MEAN?

'Antinomian' is pronounced [an-ta-nome'-ee-ann]. The word itself can be traced back to the Greek of the New Testament. It comes from putting two Greek words together: `anti (anti) and nomos (nomos). The first word "anti" taken by itself means, "over against or instead of", and corresponds to our English word "anti", which means "opposed to".

The second half of the word 'Antinomian', which is the word "nomos", means: (1) a law, rule, standard; (2) a rule of life or moral conduct. This is the same word that is translated "law" in "Do we then make void the **law** through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the **law**."-KJV. Rom. 3:31. Consequently, when these two Greek words are combined, it gives the meaning: lawlessness; without, opposed to or against laws, standards, or rules of moral conduct.

IS 'ANTINOMIAN' A BIBLE WORD?

Yes, it most certainly is (in the Greek Language, that is). It can be found in the following form 25 times throughout the New Testament. This time it again comes from taking the Greek word "nomos", but prefixing it with the negative particle "a" to give the Greek word "anomos". The Greek word "nomos" was previously defined as: a law, rule, standard; a rule of life or moral conduct. When the negative article "a" is prefixed to it, the exact same meaning as our English word 'Antinomian' is derived. The Greek translation for this New Testament word is: lawlessness; the condition of being without law; having contempt for law.

It is usually translated (Strong's # 458, 459) using vague words like 'iniquity', 'wicked', 'unrighteousness' or 'transgressor' (in the Authorized Version-KJV). It's even more vague in all the newer translations. Only 6 times was it clearly translated (KJV) as 'without law', 'lawless', etc., in 3 verses only. However, understanding this word's true

meaning, brings new meaning and clarity to all verses that contain it. Even though it is found translated 'iniquity in Matt. 7:23, the words 'Antinomian' or 'lawlessness' could rightfully be put there instead. It would then read, starting at verse 21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work "lawlessness" (Antinomianism).

Other verses that condemn Antinomians to hell are: "The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do 'Antinomian(ism)' ." "And because 'Antinomians' shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with 'Antinomians'? and what communion hath light with darkness?" "For the mystery of 'Antinomian(ism)' doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all 'Antinomian(ism)', and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works (Matt.13:41; Matt. 24:12; 2 Cor. 6:14; 2 Thess. 2:7; Titus 2:14). With this in mind, it is interesting to see what men of God have said about it.

WHAT'S ITS BASIC DOCTRINE?

In his late book, Paths to Power, A.W. Tozer defined it this way. "Fundamental Christianity in our times is deeply influenced by that ancient enemy of righteousness, Antinomianism. The creed of the Antinomian is easily stated: We are saved by faith alone; works have no place in salvation; conduct is works, and is therefore of no importance. What we do cannot matter as long as we believe rightly. The divorce between creed and conduct is absolute and final. The question of sin is settled by the Cross; conduct is outside the circle of faith and cannot come between the believer and God. Such in brief, is the teaching of the Antinomian. And so fully has it permeated the Fundamental element in modern Christianity that it is accepted by the religious masses as the very truth of God. **Antinomianism is the doctrine of grace carried by uncorrected logic to the point of absurdity. It takes the teaching of justification by faith and twists it into deformity.**"

I know there are some (maybe you, dear reader) who might say, "That's the gospel! That's Grace! That's what I believe and practice!" Oh, if we would only take the time to seek God, pray and read the Gospel, unfettered by the "Doctrines of Men", we would surely find that **Antinomianism is ANOTHER GOSPEL** (i.e.- not Christianity).

Charles Finney in the 1800's spoke of it "as the opposite extreme to legalism. Legalist are all work, Antinomians no work. Professing to have yielded up their whole agency to Christ, they throw all responsibility upon Him and do nothing. Under pretense of being led by the

Spirit and of waiting for God to reveal His will to them, they give themselves up very much to spiritual indolence (idleness)¹."

Noah Webster, in his 1878 Dictionary, defined **Antinomianism** as: "one of a sect who were charged with maintaining that, under the gospel dispensation, the moral law is of no use or obligation."

2 Tim. 3:1-5. This know also, that in the last days perilous (Greek-harsh, fierce, savage) times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent (Greek-without self-control), fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; **having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away** (Greek.-turn self away from, to shun, avoid)

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