

**Spiritual How-to's -
How to Please the Lord
Understanding Grace
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In these video lessons we share brief, bite-sized, Bible basics on how you can please the Lord.

Today's topic – Understanding grace

NOTE This subject is so vast and multifaceted, I implore you to get the notes. There are 2 additional study sheets 1. "Grace" Bible verses 2. "Grace" word study. They will help guide you through this complex topic and enrich your study & growth.

Intro. My attempt here is to be clear & informative about the value and necessity of grace in our life. In fact, we will see that according to the Word of God, everything we are, we do & we touch is affected by His inexpressible gift of grace.

I. Grace defined – There are 2 biblical definitions of grace. The OT one & the NT one.

A. The OT word is "chen" – and it means graciousness, kindness & favor. It is an acceptance demonstrated by one who stoops down to favor an inferior.

1. It is used 38 times in the OT
2. It's first mention is in Gen. 6:8 - Noah found favor/grace.

B. The NT word for grace is "charis" – it means graciousness of manner or act; especially the divine influence on the heart, and its reflection in the life, including gratitude. It indicates favor on the part of the giver and thanks on the receiver.

1. It is used 156 times in the NT
2. It is first spoken of in the life of Jesus as a child, as it says "he grew in grace and in favor with God and man." Lk. 2:40 Later in John 1:14 as the adult Jesus, he was full of grace and truth.

C. Whereas the OT players somehow found grace or God's favor from God, the NT players, along with us, have been birthed into an entirely new disbursement of grace, because the life, death & resurrection of Jesus.

1. Paul introduced this as his "stewardship of God's grace". Eph. 3:2
2. He called it a mystery. Eph. 3:3
3. It's importance so significant that each epistle that Paul signed, he closed with Grace.
4. Again, demonstrating the importance of grace, even the last verse of the Bible speaks grace to us all. Rev. 22:21
5. Imagine my audacity to attempt to teach on it

II. We all can receive this gift of grace from God and Jesus Christ. Acts 20:32; Rev. 22:21

A. In fact, without grace - their divine influence upon our life, our own

works/righteousness are as filthy rags before God. Isa. 64:6

1. Eph. 2:8 – by grace we have been saved, it is not of our own doing
2. Zech. 4:6 – not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit...
...and he shall bring forth the capstone amid shouts of GRACE!

B. The Pharisees sought to fulfill the law of Moses by what they did.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

1. Our own efforts and attempts to please God amount to zero.
2. We are not to lean on our own ways or understanding Pre. 3:5-6
3. His grace is what makes us strong & is revealed in our weakness.
2 Cor. 12:19

C. Jesus came, died and was resurrected to break the power of their Mosiac law

& introduce the mystery of His grace - His divine influence on our heart & how it shows in our life.

1. By grace we have been saved through faith Eph. 2:5,8
2. to show the immeasurable riches of his grace Eph. 2:7
3. This is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not of works so that no one may boast Eph. 2:8-9
4. From the fullness of His grace He has multiplied his influence upon us, so that we have all sufficiency in all things. Jn. 1:16; 2 Cor. 2:9

III. Grace is everywhere (in the NT) and should be everywhere in our life. It affects EVERYTHING.

A. Here is my **Grace 29** – list, to help us understand the infinite power of His grace.

1. saved by grace Eph. 2:8
2. grow in grace 2 Pet. 3:17; Lk. 2:40
3. believe through grace Acts 18:25
4. built up in grace Acts 20:32
5. receive our inheritance through grace Acts 20:32
6. justified by grace Rom. 3:24
7. increase in grace Rom. 5:20
8. given our own measure of grace 1 Cor. 3:10
9. under grace & not the law Rom. 6:14
10. I am what I am by the grace of God 1 Cor. 15:10
11. endure by grace 2 Cor. 6:4-10
12. give \$\$ by grace 2 Cor. 8:1-6
13. have all sufficiency by grace 2 Cor. 9:8
14. grace is enough 2 Cor. 12:9
15. grace is a gift Gal. 2:9

16. redeemed by grace Eph. 1:7
17. forgiven by grace Eph. 1:7
18. grace is lavished on us Eph. 1:7
19. he gives more grace Jas. 4:6
20. grace is varied 1 Pet. 4:10
21. grace abounds in sin Rom. 5:20
22. grace multiplies peace 2 Pet. 1:2
23. strengthened by grace 2 Tim. 2:1
24. grow in grace & knowledge 2 Pet. 3:18
25. grace affects my singing Col. 3:16
26. grace affects my speech Col. 4:6
27. draw near to the throne of grace & find help in need Heb. 4:16
28. grace is for all Rev. 22:21
29. grace can be nullified, fallen away from, trampled & failed to be obtained Gal. 2:21; 5:4; Heb. 10:29; Heb. 12:15-17

B. Grace is all about God showing His favor on our life with His presence & influence.

1. **He wants to influence EVERYTHING. EVERY PART. His grace is enough.**
 - a. for brokenness
 - b. for habits
 - c. for needs
 - d. for desires
 - e. doubts, questions
 - f. worry
 - g. struggles, addictions
 - h. talents
 - i. purpose
 - j. strategy
 - k. hope
 - l. for plans
 - m. for now
 - o. for the future
2. In our weakness He is made strong
3. All grace will overflow us in every situation at all times for every good work
4. His grace is rich, lavish, inexpressible
5. THESE TRUTHS show us the vast expanse of grace. We live by grace!

C. Yet, there are those who nullify his grace, trample the work of Jesus under foot and fail to obtain the free gift of grace. Gal. 2:21; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 10:29; Heb. 12:15

1. Why? because they chose to do everything in their own effort, strength, understanding and power.

2. Just like the religious Pharisees of Jesus time, seeking to fulfill the law by their own efforts.

3. This outrages the Spirit of Grace. Heb. 10:29

D. Therefore, we must understand grace, God's divine influence upon us and chose to live by grace.

1. Grace grounds us

2. Grace empowers us

E. Grace is all about God.

1. The Almighty God is not only stooping down to accept us but to help us with His presence/influence in every area of our life.

2. Our response is to be humbly grateful and be all He has enabled us to be.

3. Grace transforms our desires, motivations and behavior.

4. It empowers us to please God.