

Grace: Unearned Favor



Grace is the basis for the Christian faith. We deserve eternal separation from God, but by His grace and the work Jesus did by coming to earth, dying, and rising from the dead - for us; we now have eternal life with God after our death and even an abundant life *in Christ* now. Grace cannot be earned; it is freely given. The Father does not see our past; our poor choices, mistakes, and sin. By grace, He sees us through the eyes of His loving Son; who loved us enough to go the cross to die for us. The past is dead and gone and the Lord holds none of it against us.

Paul wrote in Titus 2:11-14 that God's grace, not only offers mankind salvation, but also teaches us to say, "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives. There is a responsibility that comes with grace we have received. How can we not extend grace to others when we have received so much grace? As important as grace is to our reconciliation with God, it is also *very* important in our daily lives. One writer stated; 'grace commonly refers to a polite and thoughtful way of behaving.' Grace is meant to help us live holy lives after we are born again into a new life with Christ.

A successful marriage is impossible without grace. I, personally, desire to *always* be loving, kind, patient, and gentle with my wife. But I confess, I do not always fulfill that desire. It is her grace to me that keeps our marriage growing in spite of my faux pas - my failings. Grace in marriage is the act of giving unconditional acceptance and love to our spouse, even when they have wronged us. Yes, poor behavior and sin must be addressed and there are consequences that may be reaped for that wrong behavior, but even in the addressing the behavior, grace must prevail.

Friends, the question is; do *you* give grace - to your spouse, your children, your friends - to anyone you come in contact with? Yes, it is not natural to give grace to others, but God's grace will empower you to extend His grace to those in your life.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Learn more about beginning a couple's group at www.fortifiedmarriages.com/find-out-more

Articles to check out:

Giving Your Spouse Grace by Greg Smalley - focusonthefamily.com

How to Respond with Grace In Your Marriage—No Matter What by Melissa Gilmour - gracemarriage.com