

Tough Questions of Faith

Volume 3, Grace

What is Grace?

God's Grace, in its deepest and fullest expression, is indescribable and foreign to all our human thinking. This is because God's capacity to forgive is infinitely greater than ours as humans. God's Grace is His unmerited favor, when He freely gives us forgiveness for all our sin and disobedience to Him although we do not deserve it. God, as a Holy and Just God, sets forth the consequences of rebellion and sin and Romans 3:23 tells us those consequences are spiritual death, separation from God both here and for eternity. Our sin actively blocks our relationship with God just as if a large, brick wall were erected between Him and us.

How can we overcome sin and receive grace?

God's grace shows us the truth declared in Ephesians 2:4, "But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ..." The love and mercy of God moved Him to offer to pay the penalty for our sin with the life of His own son. God's "rich mercy" is offered to all who accept the death of Christ for their sin, by believing in Jesus and receiving Him as the leader of their life. This is why Grace is said to be amazing. A poignant acronym for Grace is, "God's riches at Christ's expense." God is both just and the One who justifies (Romans 3:26). His grace is available to all who will receive it. There is nothing you can do to earn it, or add on to it (Ephesians 2:8-9). This demonstrates to us why we all need God's grace so desperately, since we can never earn God's favor or forgiveness no matter how good we try to be, we all still fall short of God's standard of holiness. His grace alone is sufficient for our forgiveness.

Picture your need for grace as if you were someone borrowing five million dollars to start a business. You make mistakes, the business flops and you are deeply in debt to the bank. You stand to lose everything. Then, the owner of the bank, who happens to be Warren Buffet, one of the richest men in the world, shows up at your business and offers to pay off the entire debt for free, just because of his great love for you. And you had never personally met him before, but he knew all about you. Who wouldn't accept a gift like that?

His Grace Is Enough

With no offense to Warren Buffet, God has a much greater debt to forgive, and a much greater heart of mercy that is expressed in His grace. His grace is enough. His grace that is greater than all of our sins, will pardon us and cleanse us within. "Amazing grace-- how sweet the sound-- That saved a wretch like me!"

A question for reflection: Is grace, as total undeserved forgiveness and pardon, a concept man would ever dream up or be capable of, or must it come from God?