

MENS LIFE BLOOMINGTON

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Grace | Ephesians 2:8

Overview: “Grace” is powerful, it’s an action, it’s given freely, not warranted. Grace is a gift to be received and given with no strings attached, you can’t earn it. God gives us grace so that we become grace-filled persons performing gracious acts toward others. Grace becomes our nature. It’s not achieved but received through Jesus Christ.

Why I Picked This Verse: 1) The Grace that has been given me by not only God, but by others with no strings attached. 2) Understanding that I need to give grace freely and often to those around me, I want Grace to become my nature.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzn0I6OBRK8>

Segment Questions: (References are on back)

Read Ephesians 2:8, Romans 11:6 & Romans 3: 23-24

- What do I have to do to be saved? Is it sacrifice? Service to others? Being good all the time?
- What does it mean to be saved through faith? Do I simply have to believe? Why would God just give this to me as a gift?
- Think of a time you have fallen short and sinned against God, how did you feel? Are we truly justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus? Why would He do that for me?
- Think of a time when someone has fallen short of your expectations and/or let you down. How did you handle it? Did you show grace or were you frustrated and disgruntled? How did your reaction & communication make the situation turn out?

Read Romans 12:6 & Romans 12:3

- How does using our different spiritual gifts show grace towards others?
- Think of a time when you thought more highly of yourself than others (spouse, co-worker, friend). How did they feel? Did it have a positive outcome in the long term?

Action Questions:

- I want Grace to be in all my greetings and communications. What small thing can I do today to get started? How can I maintain an attitude of grace towards others everyday?
- Think of someone today that could use some grace (given freely with no strings attached). What are you going to do to make Grace your nature and share it with that person.
- My goal for the week: I will show grace to others through my service & speech. I will be a billboard for Christ. What can I do today to make Jesus more famous?

Closing Personal Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for the perfect example of grace! I pray that each day we’ll look to you for the direction, wisdom & courage that we need to share that same grace with those around us, so they’ll see you in our everyday words and actions. I pray that Grace becomes our nature in all we do. Amen

Introduction

I think we can all agree that the world we live in could use a little peace & kindness right now!

Turn on the news, look at social media and within 5 minutes, you can see that people can be downright mean and ugly.

It seems that everywhere you look we're dealing with hate, anger, politics, canceling people out if they don't agree with our beliefs, financial stress, war, children's mental health, adults' mental health. The list goes on and on.

Rick talked about the power of kindness in the last lesson, a Christmas card he received hoped for the following; "may the coming year allow opportunities for us to show kindness, share love and bring joy to others."

No question these are all important things for us to do...show kindness, share love, and bring joy towards others.

In today's lesson I'd like to take it a step further and talk about the power of Grace, and the positive, uplifting effect it can have on us individually as well as our community.

Let's focus on God's Grace to us, our Grace back to Him and Grace towards others.

I really like the memory verse video by Mark Moore. In the video he puts emphasis on each sentence individually. Let's take a minute and read today's verse. Concentrate on each sentence separately. Think about the power of the words and their meaning.

Ephesians 2:8 (Grace)

"By grace you have been saved through faith. (Saved by faith)
And this is not your own doing; (Not by anything you've done)
it is the gift of God" (It's a gift of God)

This morning I'd like to focus on the following areas of Grace and how they can change:
our mindset...our world...and our outlook going forward.

Grace is God's Salvation.

Grace is our Service & Speech to others.

As we study the power & beauty of "Grace", I'm thankful for God's willingness to share His Grace with me & my family. In doing so He has provided an example of how to share this Grace with others.

Ephesians 2: 8 | By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

Romans 3: 23-24 | For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 11: 6 | And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

Romans 12:6 | Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...

Romans 12:3 | For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.