

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Victorious Grace

Romans 5:20-21

"Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (ESV)

Other passages for study: Romans 8:9-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 3:4-12, 4:12-16; Hebrews 8:8-13; 1 Peter 2:9-10.

- **Key question:** Do you filter every area of your life through the abounding grace of God? Your personal life? Your church life? Comprehensively across your life?

Questions

John first asked, "why did God give the law?"

1. Discuss the three reasons John gave for why God gave the law:
 - a. It reveals the character of God (the law is a teacher (Gal 3).
 - b. It restrains human evil (Rom 13:1-4 – purpose of governing authorities)
 - c. It reveals what is pleasing to God: provides moral norms, a guide for a godly life.
2. Does the law drive you to your need for Christ and the gospel?
3. As a Christian, do you view the law as a guide for how to live a godly life? Or does Scripture's commands feel more like a burden, things that take the joy out of life?

John next asked, "how does grace work?"

4. God's grace impacts every Christian personally and it also is a key aspect of this era of redemptive history: the time after Christ's first coming and before His second coming. Often referred to as the New Covenant era.

Read the following passages and discuss these questions:

- What is true of God's people, the church, in the New Covenant era?
- What characteristics stand out in these passages for what life in the church should be like?
 - Hebrews 8:8-13
 - Ephesians 3:4-12
 - Ephesians 4:12-16
 - 1 Peter 2:9-10

5. **What has God already accomplished in your life personally through His grace? What is God accomplishing in your life in an ongoing way through His grace?**

John last asked, "what is the goal of grace?"

From John's sermon: "To what end is the exercise of this grace? That Christ would receive all praise and glory in the saving of sinners...in saving you! Paul ... crescendos through this contrast of Adam and Christ. Much more, much more did the Lord Jesus accomplish to overwhelm the devastation of sin. As **John Piper** puts it, 'Paul is climaxing with cymbals crashing, trumpets, blowing, choirs singing as it were because all history aims at magnifying Jesus Christ.'"

6. **Read Romans 8:9-17 and Galatians 4:4-7. Are you living with the joy that reflects being a child of God in Christ? With having the Holy Spirit living inside of you? Why or why not?**
7. **Do you treat Jesus' life, death, and resurrection as the most important event in human history? How is it going with Jesus being the center of your life?**