



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

A large graphic of a water splash, with a tall, thin blue stream of water falling from the top left and splashing into a yellow and blue gradient background. The splash is composed of various blue and white droplets and waves.

Enough?

“Grace Is Not a Thing” (Part 1)

Jan 5, 2025 • Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



“Grace Is Not a Thing” (Part 1)

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MESSAGE NOTES

While grace is one of God's most important attributes and impacts every part of our lives and all our relationships, there's a lot of _____ about grace.

If God is merciful and forgiving, then why strive for a _____ life?
If Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, then why should we be concerned about experiencing _____ change and transformation?

Note **Romans 6:1**

1. What Is _____?

...is grace some type of heavenly _____ that God gives apart from Himself?

Common definition of grace = _____ gift.

Grace is a gift, but God not only is the Giver of grace, He is actually the _____.

God gives us Himself when we don't _____ it.

And grace is something that we not only look _____ to...but where we often fall short in our understanding of grace is that God intends grace to move us _____ and transform us.

Let's correct some wrong ideas there are about grace:

2. Grace Means _____ isn't a Big Deal

I'm good at sinning and God is good at forgiving, so it's a _____!

The problem is this way of thinking wrongly presumes it's God's _____ to forgive our sins...

...He _____ us forgiveness.

The _____ I think God owes me grace, it's no longer grace.

Antinomians = _____ law

Note **Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:15-16; 3:11; Romans 5:20**

God's _____ is not a reason to keep sinning
(note **John 5:14; 8:10-11**).

Justification by faith alone is not an invitation to practice moral
irresponsibility or _____ shortcuts (note **Romans 6:1-2**).

Grace is not permission to sin; it's the source of power to
_____ sin.

The next wrong idea:

3. Grace Means Do Your _____ and God Will Do the _____

Our problem = we vastly underestimate how our spiritually defective DNA
has _____ itself in every aspect and part of our lives.

Our thoughts, words, actions, and relationships are all _____
and disrupted by our sinful nature (note **Romans 7:14-24**).

*The Bible does not say we are people who need help _____ the
finish line. It says we are spiritual _____ who need to be given life.*
(Treat)

Sin is so entrenched in the core of our beings that grace isn't the final touch
we need to _____ our moral and ethical progress.

Grace is the start, the middle, and the end of the _____
Christian life (note **Romans 7:25a**).

Is it Enough?

- What's so important for us to recognize and personally embrace is
that the more _____ we are about how deeply sin has
infiltrated everything about our lives, the more we will celebrate and
be unendingly grateful for God's grace.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** **MYRC.LINK/CONNECT**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Recall the coldest day you can ever remember.
Where were you and what was an experience
you remember from that day?

1. Pastor Tom said that a common definition of grace is “undeserved gift”. What has grace looked like in your life, whether given to you by God or other people?
2. Read **Romans 6:1-2**. Pastor Tom indicated that, as in Bible times, some people have the false impression that because of grace, sin isn’t a big deal anymore. But a quick read of **Romans 3:20**, **Galatians 2:15-16**; **3:11** and **Romans 5:20** shows that grace does not abolish the law, but that sin still exists and is very serious. So, what DOES the grace of Jesus do for us and how should that motivate us to righteous living?
3. Pastor Tom declared that, “Grace is not permission to sin; it’s the source of power to overcome sin.” In fact, in **John 5:14** and **8:10-11** Jesus commands those He had just forgiven to take the next step and stop sinning. What is your attitude toward sin as a follower of Jesus?
4. Pastor Tom said that, “We vastly underestimate how our spiritually defective DNA has entwined itself in every aspect and part of our lives”, leaving us to imagine that we only need a little bit of grace to “help us [cross] the finish line.” The Apostle Paul’s personal testimony in **Romans 7:14-24** might suggest otherwise. What are the potential consequences of believing yourself to only be in need of a little grace?
5. Pastor Tom stated, “What’s so important for us to recognize and personally embrace is that the most honest we are about how deeply sin has infiltrated everything about our lives, the more we will celebrate and be unendingly grateful for God’s grace.” How would you rate your honesty level in this area, and how could you improve?

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day One: Matthew 14; Psalm 103

Day Two: Leviticus 13; Proverbs 10

Day Three: 1 Corinthians 9; 2 Samuel 23

Day Four: 1 John 3; Jeremiah 37

Day Five: Job 41; Acts 19

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.



MESSAGE NOTES

“Grace Is Not a Thing” (Part 1)

Jan 5, 2025

Pastor Tom Lundeen

While grace is one of God's most important attributes and impacts every part of our lives and all our relationships, there's a lot of confusion about grace.

If God is merciful and forgiving, then why strive for a holy life?
If Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, then why should we be concerned about experiencing life change and transformation?

Note **Romans 6:1**

1. What Is Grace?

...is grace some type of heavenly substance that God gives apart from Himself?

Common definition of grace = undeserved gift.

Grace is a gift, but God not only is the Giver of grace, He is actually the gift.

God gives us Himself when we don't deserve it.

And grace is something that we not only look back to...but where we often fall short in our understanding of grace is that God intends grace to move us forward and transform us.

Let's correct some wrong ideas there are about grace:

2. Grace Means Sin isn't a Big Deal

I'm good at sinning and God is good at forgiving, so it's a win-win!

The problem is this way of thinking wrongly presumes it's God's job to forgive our sins...

...He owes us forgiveness.

The moment I think God owes me grace, it's no longer grace.

Antinomians = against law

Note **Romans 3:20**; **Galatians 2:15-16**; **3:11**; **Romans 5:20**

God's forgiveness is not a reason to keep sinning (note **John 5:14; 8:10-11**). Justification by faith alone is not an invitation to practice moral irresponsibility or ethical shortcuts (note **Romans 6:1-2**). Grace is not permission to sin; it's the source of power to overcome sin.

The next wrong idea:

3. Grace Means *Do Your Best and God Will Do the Rest*

Our problem = we vastly underestimate how our spiritually defective DNA has entwined itself in every aspect and part of our lives.

Our thoughts, words, actions, and relationships are all distorted and disrupted by our sinful nature (note **Romans 7:14-24**).

The Bible does not say we are people who need help crossing the finish line. It says we are spiritual corpses who need to be given life. (Treat)

Sin is so entrenched in the core of our beings that grace isn't the final touch we need to enhance our moral and ethical progress.

Grace is the start, the middle, and the end of the genuine Christian life (note **Romans 7:25a**).

Is it Enough?

- What's so important for us to recognize and personally embrace is that the more honest we are about how deeply sin has infiltrated everything about our lives, the more we will celebrate and be unendingly grateful for God's grace.

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