



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

A graphic of a blue water splash with white droplets, set against a yellow-to-white gradient background, positioned above the main title.

Enough?

“Why Grace Can Seem Elusive”

Jan 19, 2025 • Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



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MESSAGE NOTES

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

If God is _____ and forgiving, then why strive for a holy life?

If Jesus _____ the penalty for our sins, then why should we be concerned about experiencing life change and transformation?

Note **Romans 6:1**

1. _____

The greatest _____ to grace is the idea that I don't need it. Pride is at the _____ of all human sin (note **Genesis 3:1-5**).

Pride _____ us into thinking that if I don't earn something through my own efforts and abilities, then I can't take credit for it.

Note **Proverbs 16:18; 11:2; 18:12; 29:23; Psalm 18:27; Luke 15:17-20a; 12:16-21; 18:9-14**

Grace isn't a crutch for weak people, *it is a _____ for the honest.* (Treat)

Note **2 Corinthians 5:17**

2. _____

- A. *I receive a _____ with gratefulness.*
- B. *I get used to a gift with _____.*
- C. *I demand a gift as a _____.* (Treat)

Entitlement _____ into our lives, especially as American Jesus followers and is often a blind spot, because an entitlement culture permeates all parts of American culture...

Note **Matthew 23:5-7; 6:16; 20:1-16**

An attitude of entitlement _____ us away from grace.
As soon as you believe you deserve grace, you _____ the
transforming power of grace.

3. _____

This proclaims *I'm not _____ enough for grace.*
While I know God can forgive me, I just can't forgive _____.

This is actually not genuine humility, but it is false humility and reveals a
_____ heart.
God is a greater _____ than you are a _____. (Treat)

Is it Enough?

- Note **Matthew 21:28-31**
- Either God overlooks sin, or He _____
the lives of sinners.
- God's love and grace meets us where we _____.
- But God loves us too much to let us stay _____.
- God's grace both _____ and transforms people
with spiritually defective DNA.

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

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SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your *group* matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

On your last day, what **ONE** stat about your life would you be interested to know?
(For example, "How many tears did I cry?")

1. Read **Genesis 3:1-6, Proverbs 16:18, 29:23; Psalm 18:27, and Luke 18:9-14**. Pastor Tom said that the greatest nemesis to grace is pride – the idea that you don't need grace. "I'm good." What is the allure of this way of thinking and why is it so dangerous?
2. In a partial quote of Treat, Pastor Tom declared that, "Grace isn't a crutch for weak people, it is a foundation for the honest." (Note **2 Corinthians 5:17**) In what ways has grace demanded intellectual and spiritual honesty in your life?
3. Pastor Tom indicated that "an attitude of entitlement pushes us away from grace." Read **Matthew 20:1-16**. What moved the earliest workers in the parable from an experience of grace to a sense of entitlement and where have you seen the same dynamic at work in your life?
4. Pastor Tom stated that the idea that, "I'm not good enough for grace", is an oddly conceited false humility as if your sin is greater than God's grace. In other words, "God's grace is not enough!" Considering this, how do you respond to Treat's quote: "God is a greater Savior than you are a sinner"?
5. Pastor Tom encouraged us by saying, "God's love and grace meets us where we are...But God loves us too much to let us stay there." Share where God grace met you and where His love has led you since then.

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day One: Matthew 16; Psalm 105

Day Two: Leviticus 15; Proverbs 12

Day Three: 1 Corinthians 11; 1 Kings 1

Day Four: 1 John 5; Jeremiah 39

Day Five: Ecclesiastes 1; Acts 21

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



MESSAGE NOTES

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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. Pride

The greatest nemesis to grace is the idea that I don't need it.

Pride is at the root of all human sin (note **Genesis 3:1-5**).

Pride deceives us into thinking that if I don't earn something through my own efforts and abilities, then I can't take credit for it.

Note **Proverbs 16:18; 11:2; 18:12; 29:23; Psalm 18:27; Luke 15:17-20a; 12:16-21; 18:9-14**

Grace isn't a crutch for weak people, *it is a foundation for the honest.*
(Treat)

Note **2 Corinthians 5:17**

2. Entitlement

- A. *I receive a gift with gratefulness.*
- B. *I get used to a gift with routine.*
- C. *I demand a gift as a right.* (Treat)

Entitlement slithers into our lives, especially as American Jesus followers and is often a blind spot, because an entitlement culture permeates all parts of American culture...

Note **Matthew 23:5-7; 6:16; 20:1-16**

An attitude of entitlement pushes us away from grace.
As soon as you believe you deserve grace, you unravel the transforming power of grace.

3. Self-Pity

This proclaims *I'm not good enough for grace.*
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God is a greater Savior than you are a sinner. (Treat)

Is it Enough?

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- Either God overlooks sin, or He revolutionizes the lives of sinners.
- God's love and grace meets us where we are...
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