

Doctrine of Grace

Ephesians 2:5... by grace you have been saved.

Now we will work on understanding *grace*.

Doctrine of Grace

1. From R. B. Thieme Jr.: “Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the cross, on the basis of propitiation.”

Merrill Unger in 1957 “Grace is what God may be free to do and indeed what He does, accordingly, for the lost after Christ has died on behalf of them.”

(Wikipedia) “It is understood by Christians to be a spontaneous gift from God to people – "generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved" – that takes the form of divine favor, love, clemency, and a share in the divine life of God. It is an attribute of God that is most manifest in the salvation of sinners.”

(C.L. Mitton, 1962) “God’s unmerited free, spontaneous love for sinful man, revealed and made effective in Jesus Christ.” In Hebrew, grace involves such other subjects as forgiveness, salvation, regeneration, repentance and the love of God, or grace, favor, acceptance. In Greek; *charis* translated: grace, graciousness, kindness, goodwill, gift, favor, thanks and gratitude.

Nelson: favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that person deserves. By Grace You Have Been Saved Ephesians 2:5

Doctrine of Grace Ephesians 2:5

The Revell concise Bible Dictionary “God’s free and spontaneous action taken to meet human need, especially in providing salvation and in enabling the believer.

The Anchor Bible Dictionary Vol. 2 Grace in the Old Testament. “Grace is the favor of God to human beings. The subject of grace in Old Testament is too vast for comprehensive treatment.” Grace in the New Testament: “Grace is love demonstrated by giving; in the gospel, grace is unmerited divine favor, arising in the mind of God and bestowed on His people. It is often considered with regard to its beneficial effects.”

The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible “In the OT Heb. *chen* means literally, favor (Zech. 4:7; 11:7, 10.) In the NT grace (Gk. *charis*) refers to the unmerited and freely given redeeming action of God through Christ by which sin is forgiven and its power broken, and believers are upheld and strengthened in their Christian life (Rom. 6:14-15; 12:3,6; 15:15; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 8:9; Eph. 1:2; 2:5; 6:24).”

Lexicon of New Testament Greek. “*Charis* has been distinctively appropriate in the New Testament to designate the relation and conduct of God towards sinful man as revealed in and through Christ, especially as an act of spontaneous favour.”

Harper’s Bible Dictionary “Grace, a favorable disposition on the part of God, usually without reference to any merit or desert in the object of the favor, and, especially in the NT, even when the object is entirely lacking in merit or desert. The grace of God is therefore that quality of God’s nature which is the

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

source of men's undeserved blessing. In particular those blessings which have to do with their salvation from sin.

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

2. Let's start with our understanding of God. He is free to love us, He is free to save us. God is actually free from the confinements of His own perfect character to do something for us. As members of the human race, we are imperfect. God is perfect! So grace is God's freedom to express His love to mankind without jeopardizing any part of His essence. Therefore grace is the plan of God!

Grace is the work of God! Grace is the expression of God's perfection, because grace means very simply that God does all the work and man does all of the benefiting.

Grace depends upon the essence or the character of God, therefore grace depends on who and what God is. Grace is what God can do for man and be consistent with His own character or essence, and this is why propitiation is so important.

3. We now look at mankind. Being imperfect it is impossible for us to realize the implications of a perfect God giving us something that is free and essential.
4. God is free to give to mankind because of the cross. The cross of Christ freed God to save us and to save us permanently.
5. The issue: The believer must sort out the difference between grace and legalism. Legalism is man's ability, man's works, man's actions intruding into the plan of God. Man always has some talent he

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

wants to use, some ability, some plan, some gimmick, some concepts that the world wants to incorporate into God's plan. But anything that man throws into the plan of God gets man deeper in debt. Whatever man throws in, destroys grace. The plan of God however is not destroyed or neutralized because grace rejects man's talent, or man's ability or man's plans, anything that we have to try to add into God's plan. Man's works, whatever man adds cannot coexist with God's work. They are mutually exclusive and this forms a great issue in our life from the moment of salvation on. We are constantly faced with the issue of grace verses legalism. So the point is to stay out of the way and just accept what God does.

6. Grace and the Angelic Conflict!

Under grace the greatest thing that God can do for any believer is to make that believer like His Son, Jesus Christ, who is greater than the angels and is the glory of God Himself, as well as the head of the church. Man was created to resolve the angelic conflict. Therefore, when the first Adam failed it through his free will and sinned, called the *fall*, Jesus was the last Adam and became perfect human, and per Hebrews 2:14-16 not an angel but a perfect Human being. The first Adam lost the victory through the fall, and the last Adam wins the victory through the cross and then ascension and Session as per Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 2:14; Ephesians 1:20.

So the grace of God found a way to take man, created inferior to angel and in a fallen condition and make Him superior to all other angelic creatures. And this is accomplished in two stages of sanctification. This brings sanctification and the angelic conflict into focus. The angelic conflict has so many different parts of causing Christ to win in the angelic conflict.

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

Stage One is by means of the baptism of the Holy Spirit whereby every believer is entered into union with Christ. Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father, and every believer at the point of salvation is entered into union with Christ. At the end of the Old Testament, when the Jew believed in the Messiah, He separated him from that generation and the Judiazers that rejected the Messiah. Jesus Christ, the glorified one, and seated at the right hand of the Father in His humanity, is higher than angels. Believers in the Church Age are in union with Christ and therefore as of the moment of we are saved, we become positionally higher than all angels. This is taught in Hebrews chapters 1-2: every believer is higher than angels. That also teaches us that there is nothing that upsets the devil more than for members of the human race, who created lower than angels who now can by simple faith, be higher than he himself is by the angel conflict. So by faith alone you actually become *better* than the demons.

Stage Two when the one who believes in Jesus Christ receives his/her resurrected body, and becomes the bride of Christ. This is what is known as ultimate sanctification. At that point the believer in Jesus Christ is now physically superior and better than the angels.

7. Enter into the grace of God! Every believer is now entered into the grace of God. This means that he/she has tasted grace at least once, the moment they believed in Jesus Christ as their Savior,

Hebrews 6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

and

1 Peter 2:3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord

At the moment of salvation every believer receives 34 things. They are irrevocable! They are just as immutable as God Himself!!!! And this grace package at salvation cannot be canceled or destroyed, either by God or by angels, or by human beings and you can't destroy it, and it is not self destructible. At the same time, God is freed to love you regardless of your experiential status in this life. Maximum love frees God to pour out maximum grace.

8. Grace in your salvation is demonstrated from a few other verses.

Read Psalm 103:8-12;

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short (are without) the glory of God,

Romans 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor , but as what is due.

Romans 5:20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Also Ephesians 2:8-9

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

Hebrews 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little, lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of His suffering death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

There are many passages which specifically state, just as our passage does, that salvation is by grace. **“By grace you have been permanently saved”** says this small parenthesis here in Ephesians 2:5. That means that you cannot be saved by anything that you do, or any plan that man devises. You cannot be saved by walking an aisle, raising your hands, weeping tears, make promising do or being different. You cannot be saved by inviting Jesus into your heart. You cannot be saved by joining anything!

9. Grace and Giving.

One of the great areas of learning is about the importance of grace. Many give, trying to impress God to give them something by their giving. You want something really inwardly for something so you think if you give “abundantly” you can buy something from God. Or you hear some super story about the need of a missionary or some believer so you give a great large amount of money to be pleased by God. You can give emotionally; You can give as a new believer; you can even give sacrificially. But the most effective giving is when any amount in your soul meets with the Holy Spirit in your soul to give. Study 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9; and Philippians 4:14-18.

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

10. Distraction of the Grace of God.

All human good is associated with the great the Mental Attitude sin of **pride**. The pride of our souls is always crossed with grace from God. Therefore the worst mental attitude sin is pride. Often people try to combine God's graced and man's pride.

11. Four areas in which pride rejects God's Grace.

- (1) The pride of the believer crosses the doctrine of Eternal Security. To reject eternal security you have to come to a conclusion that your sins are greater than the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. This believer is more impressed by his sins than they are of the work of Jesus Christ.
- (2) The pride of the believer who succumbs to pressures and adversity who thinks that his sufferings are greater than the grace provision of God. Paul is clear on our pride and the Grace of God.

2 Corinthians 12:7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

2 Corinthians 12:8 Concerning this I implored with the Lord three times that it might leave me.

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

2 Corinthians 12:9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I am content in weaknesses, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

- (3) The **pride** of pseudo-spirituality. This is from the believer that thinks that his human systems are greater than the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in his life. The system may be anything from his great personality to observation of taboos, where in pride he confuses means (of the Holy Spirit) and results; that his sins are more refined than your sins, therefore I am spiritual.
- (4) The **pride** of the believer in his emotional high. He assumes that his feelings, his emotions, even his experiences are greater than the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in his life.

12. Grace of God often can become grace upon grace.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ;

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

Also read Ephesians 1:6-7 and 1 Corinthians 1:4-5.

13. God also gives a 'greater grace' to the humble believer from the power of the Holy Spirit.

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says God is opposed to the proud, but gives Grace to the humble.

Ephesians 3:19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Ephesians 3:21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen

Also 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.

14. How every believer can receive grace in the Church Age.

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the beloved.

God is glorified when we are blessed by His grace.

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Here at this point we see what happened at the beginning of the Church Age and why the Church Age had to take place. I don't know if you have ever thought of why the Church Age? Because Jesus Christ, was raised from the dead and because in His Humanity, He ascended as a member of the human race, into the presence of God the Father and therefore a man, the God-man. He was now superior to all angels, fallen and elect, and now the age of Israel is interrupted and now the Church Age begins and the Church Age is the Age of the 'intensification' of the angelic conflict. Not the tribulation. The Tribulation is one of the most awful periods in human history and it is a continuation of the age of Israel, but the Church Age is the age of the intensification of the angelic Conflict, **because** Jesus Christ, throughout the Old Testament dispensations Christ was the target of Satan. But once Christ is glorified at the right hand of the Father, He can no longer be the target, and therefore the Church, the Body of Christ, someday to be the bride of Christ becomes the target. And because the Church is now the target of the angelic conflict it is now shifted and it now is in the intensified stage of the angelic conflict.

Now in order that we might be properly entered into the intensified stage of the angelic conflict, verse six of Ephesians chapter 2, tells us that we have been raised up together with Christ and made to sit with Him.

We begin verse 6 with the continuative use of the conjunctive *kai* for the resumption of a sentence on the other side of the parenthesis. The parenthesis is completed and verse 6 resumes the sentences.

Doctrine of Grace
Ephesians 2:5

and has raised us up together, in verse 5 we were dead in sins and raised to life or made alive together with Christ, and have been raised up together with Him, the sentence goes on to say.

So kai merely shows that verse 5 is continued in vs 6 on the other side of the parenthesis.

Hath raised up together. is an *aorist active indicative* from the compound verb which has several connotations. The first part of the compound Greek word means *along with*, with the main word meaning *to raise up*, which is why we are identified with Jesus Christ in His resurrection. This *aorist* tense is used to refer to our current positional truth, that is the truth of our position for all eternity. Christ died on the cross, was buried and raised, and then ascended into heaven. This results in the entire glorification of Jesus Christ. Now the important secret of the Greek is that the *active voice* of the Greek shows that God the Holy Spirit actually produces the action of **raising us up** together with Christ in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit raised us up together with Jesus Christ. This is so important to the end of the Age of Israel at this point, and the beginning of the Church Age. In order to be saved physically from the judgment they would have to be baptized but not in the Church Age. Baptism would have separated them from the generation and the Judaizers that rejected the Messiah. “The act of baptism would have saved them physically.” (Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum in the book of Hebrews). But in the Church Age the baptism of the Holy Spirit moved them into Christ.

So we need to learn of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.