

Key Teachings of the Christian Faith

Vision: Strengthen our faith by examining key teachings of Christianity

Goals of today's class:

1. To Understand the Importance of Displaying the Grace of God.
2. To Understand the Only Way to Display His Grace is By His Grace.
3. To See Sanctification as a Work of His Grace.

Display His Grace

God's purpose in our salvation is to display the riches of His grace.
We also display His grace when we walk in the Spirit.
God is glorified when we display His grace by reflecting the transformation He has done in us.

Ephesians 2:4-7 NAS (New American Standard)

4 But **God**, being **rich in mercy**, because of **His great love** with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (**by grace** you have been saved), **6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come **He might show the surpassing riches of His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:7 NIV (New International Version)

in order that in the coming ages he **might show** the **incomparable riches of his grace**, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:7 ISV (International Standard Version)

so that in the coming ages he **might display** the **limitless riches of his grace** that comes to us through his kindness in the Messiah Jesus.

Ephesians 2:7 KJV (King James Version)

That in the ages to come he **might shew** the **exceeding riches of his grace** in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

We display His Grace By His Grace.

We need His grace to display His Grace.

1. God desires us to show forth His grace.
2. Can we do this by any strength of our own?
3. By definition, we can only show His grace **By** His Grace.
4. God gives His grace to display His grace.
5. For grace to be displayed in our lives, God must grant it; **He** must give it.
6. This is the only way for the true grace of God to be displayed.
7. By His grace, we continually ask for more grace through faith in Him.
8. By His Grace, we believe He will give the needed grace; He is faithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace **Himself sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body be **preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**. [24](#) Faithful is He who calls you, and **He also will bring it to pass**.

This **prayer for sanctifying grace** follows over a dozen specific, practical injunctions to holy Christian living:

1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. [15](#) See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. [16](#) Rejoice always; [17](#) pray without ceasing; [18](#) in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [19](#) Do not quench the Spirit; [20](#) do not despise prophetic utterances. [21](#) But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; [22](#) abstain from every form of evil.

Life in Grace (excerpts from In Touch Ministries – Dr. Charles Stanley)

1. Grace isn't about adding good deeds to your life; it's about **inner transformation** (e.g., a caterpillar becoming a butterfly). God makes us new people and **transforms our thoughts, actions, and desires**.
2. After his salvation, Paul's attitude changed. He had humility because of his past, gratitude for God's grace to him as a sinner, and compassion for those who didn't yet know the Lord.
3. When we experience God's grace, **we want to serve Him** on a daily basis ([1 Tim. 1:12](#)). This doesn't have to be in an official church setting or role. Instead, it can happen as we simply reach out to others during daily activities.
4. Our main problem is that we can understand the need for grace in *salvation*, but **we tend to rely on other means for process of sanctification**.
5. When you act outside of God's will, your life runs on **finite "fumes"**: your own strength. The result can be exhaustion, withdrawal, and bitterness.
6. God "gives grace to the humble" ([1 Peter 5:5](#)). Not to the strong, but to the weak. Not to the self-sufficient, but to the dependent. Grace belongs to the poor in spirit—in other words, those who humble themselves by recognizing God's majesty and worshiping Him. The more you adore and praise the Savior, **the more highly you'll think of Him**.

Jesus Displays Grace**Luke 4:14-30 NAS**

1. Jesus is in the **power of the Spirit** (14)
2. **His lifestyle** (custom) is to attend public worship. (16)
3. All the eyes in the synagogue were upon Him. Why? (20)
4. **Gracious words** were falling from His lips. (22)
5. They see a difference in Jesus' life; He seems to be **more than Joseph's son**.
6. They expect Him to be only Joseph's son. (22)
7. Or to prove He is more, they expect to see a miracle or other great work. (23)

8. They have no deep respect for the Word of God; they must see before believing.
9. They do not receive the Word by Faith. (24)
10. Jesus exposes their spiritual arrogance; they are not humbly glad when God shows mercy to a Gentile widow and a Gentile leper. (25-27)
11. Instead of seeing the glory and grace of God in saving Gentile widows and lepers, the town is filled with active rage. (28-29)
12. By God's gracious providence, Jesus passes through their midst and leaves. (30)

How are Jesus' words in vs 25-27 gracious? Are not these words insulting?
The Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. (Rom 3:2)
Should not Jesus have spoken to them with more respect?

From their hostile response, it is clear that they had received the form of worship, but the true spirit of worship was nowhere to be found. There was no deep love of God, no true love of God, (His grace, His mercy, His justice, His purity, His holiness) in their hearts. Their insides were still full of hatred, anger, and rage while being lovers of themselves. Is not this the plight of unregenerate humans, whether Jew or Gentile?

Jesus' words angered them but they had little or no self-control. One moment they are wondering, marveling, admiring His gracious words. Then, within minutes they are attempting to disgrace Him by running Him out of town. Or perhaps some were attempting to murder Him?

Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:23) and they did not have it.
Instead, they were manifesting, displaying works of the flesh. (Gal 5:19-21)

Fundamentally, **they transformed the grace of God**, His calling, **into a privileged view of themselves – apart from His sustaining, sanctifying grace – as if it is possible to receive the grace of God and then proceed forward with yesterday's grace, yesterday's call of God.** God calls us to **fresh repentance and humility** every day. They lost the humility that accompanies an authentic knowledge of His grace. (They were Abraham's biological, physical children. But they did not have the faith of their Father Abraham; they were not Abraham's spiritual children, the children of the promise.)

Brethren, let us never confuse our calling, **God's work of grace in our lives**, with some privileged existence based upon the grace of justification alone. These Jews in Jesus' town had an incorrect view of grace. They did not see themselves as sanctified by grace. **Sanctification is not a work that we do apart from the grace of God.**

We are dust, a vapor that is here one day and gone the next. The only lasting value in our lives, our existence is the value placed upon us by God. His grace confers a value upon us. His grace is both justifying and sanctifying.

Make no mistake, His calling upon us is a great unmerited privilege; to be one of His children, one of His sheep that hear His voice is a display of His exceedingly rich grace that **justifies and sanctifies**. But His calling upon us, His work in us, always continues to be **By His Grace – For His Glory**. He does not bestow upon us a grace that we

posses apart from Him; **His continuous presence, His sustaining grace is necessary or we fall from grace.**

We are leaky vessels but nevertheless we are vessels of mercy, vessels of grace. He is able to make all grace abound toward us.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that **always having all sufficiency** in everything, you may have **an abundance for every good deed**;

He is able to overcome our leaks, our weaknesses.

He can pour in the grace faster than we can leak it out.

And even when we leak, we can leak the grace of God, another display of His grace.

Next Class:

Practical Displays of God's Grace

1 Peter 4:10-11 NAS

10 As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as **good stewards of the manifold grace of God.** **11** **Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

Colossians 4:6 KJV

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Ephesians 4:29 KJV

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Jesus' lips are anointed with grace.

Psalm 45:1-2 NAS

My heart overflows with a good theme;

I address my verses to the King;

My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

2 You are fairer than the sons of men;

Grace is poured upon Your lips;

Therefore God has blessed You forever.

Like Jesus, our lips are anointed with grace when we walk in the Spirit.