

Words of Truth

Is Grace A License For Sin?

By: Brian A. Yeager

I cannot number the many times wherein someone I have studied with used the grace of God much more liberally than the Scriptures authorize. In a recent conversation with a woman in sin, she said: “I know we have many differences, but grace bridges those gaps for us, dear brother.” Folks, anyone who wants to twist the Scriptures can teach just about anything they want from the Bible (Jeremiah 23:36, Galatians 1:6-9, and II Peter 3:15-18). The subject matter of grace is one that is often twisted by those in error.

The grace of God is wonderful. It is a shame that anyone would pervert God’s grace. Without God’s grace, no man could ever be saved (Romans 5:17). There are many people who think they can earn their way to heaven. Yet, without God’s grace our good works mean nothing (Ephesians 2:5-10 and II Timothy 1:8-10). Even when we have done all that we are expected to do, we are still unprofitable servants (Luke 17:7-10). Therefore, we need God’s grace to be saved (Titus 3:7). Of course, there are those that will twist these truths and teach the “grace only” doctrine or an impossibility of apostasy doctrine. Both of these are false doctrines (Romans 5:2 and Galatians 5:4). Brethren, grace requires action on our part!

Grace Requires Obedience

Contrary to the beliefs of many, the grace of God does not remove our need for obedience to God’s will. If we begin with the first context of the Bible wherein the word “grace” appears, we can see CLEARLY that what I just wrote is absolutely true. Notice: *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.** These are the generations of Noah: **Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.** And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. **Make thee an ark of gopher wood;** rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and **thou shalt come into the ark,***

thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. *Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.* ***Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he***” (Genesis 6:5-22).

Also, consider these Scriptures: *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works”* (Titus 2:11-14). If someone can read these Scriptures and not understand that we are required, through grace, to be obedient to God; then they are willfully blind (spiritually speaking). Therefore, let’s move forward in identifying that grace is not a license for sin.

Grace Is Not A License For Sin

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness” (Romans 6:1-2; 14-16)? That being made clear, we’ll also notice that the grace of God does not make division okay.

Grace Does Not Bridge Gaps Of Division Either

Those who cause seditions [divisions] will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21). True unity of action, mind, speech, and doctrine are required of all disciples of the Lord (Matthew 12:46-50, John 17:20-23, Acts 2:46, Romans 12:16, Romans 15:6, Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 1:10, I Corinthians 4:17, II Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:5, Philippians 1:27, Philippians 2:2, Philippians 3:16, and II John 9-11). When anyone chooses to disobey these commands, like any other instructions from God, that individual will not have God’s grace on their side in the Judgment (II Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Conclusion

Grace belongs to those whom sincerely love Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:24). Our love for Christ is shown through our obedience to His will (John 14:15, John 14:23-24, John 15:10, I John 5:2-3, and II John 6). God’s goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering should not cause people to sin more (John 8:1-11). Those characteristics of God should lead all to repentance (Romans 2:4). The freedom we gain from being in Christ is not cause for us to serve our own desires (Galatians 5:13).

In conclusion, consider these Scriptures: *“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God... Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God”* (I Peter 4:1-2 and I John 3:9).