



WE NEED MORE GRACE

Pastor Matt McGill | 4/16/2023 | Pacific Coast Church

"... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)

I. **REALIZE** that grace is a **GIFT.**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:11)

II. **RECEIVE** grace through **CONFESSION.**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

But he [Jesus] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

III. **RESPOND** to grace with **OBEDIENCE.**

Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. (Romans 1:5)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! ... For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! (Romans 6:1, 14-15)

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. (1 Corinthians 15:10)

GROW GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A Grow Group is 8-16 people who gather weekly to study God's Word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. To learn more or join a group, visit pacifccoastchurch.org/gg/ or sign up at the patio Info Kiosk.

Point #1: REALIZE that grace is a GIFT

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

> If faith is a choice that some people make and others don't, why isn't it a "work" that a person can boast in? Why shouldn't a follower of Jesus think, "I believed, he didn't, I'm better"?

> Since we are saved by faith (and others are too), why did God create us to do good works?

> Is it more difficult for you to forgive others or to forgive yourself? Why?

Point #2: RECEIVE grace through CONFESSION

Read Psalm 32:5 and 2 Corinthians 12:9-12.

> In your opinion, why do people have difficulty confessing their mistakes, sins, and weaknesses? Have you made it a habit to confess your sins to God in prayer privately?

> If Christ's power is made perfect in our weaknesses, what's the point of our strengths? Why should we seek to get better at anything if Christ's power rests on us when we are weak?

Point #3: RESPOND to grace with OBEDIENCE

Read 1 Corinthians 15:10

> What's the connection between salvation, faith, and obedience? How would you explain these to a non-Christian?

> Paul wrote, "But by the grace of God, I am what I am." How has God's grace changed your life? Do you think others have noticed these changes?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

These are provided for your personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real-life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's Word and last Sunday's message. You can also download this tool at www.pacifccoastchurch.org/sermons.

MONDAY: Read Ephesians 2:8-10

- > Before you knew Jesus, what were some of the old habits that you left behind?
- > Verse 3 says that some people deserve wrath. How does that square with a loving God?
- > For you personally, what does it mean that God is "rich in mercy?"

TUESDAY: Read Ephesians 2:8-10 (Jim C., this is intentional!)

- > We are saved by grace through faith. What's your definition of grace and faith? How would you explain them to someone who wasn't a believer?
- > Since we are saved by faith (and others are too), why did God create us to do good works?
- > What are the good works that God made you to do?

WEDNESDAY: Read John 8:2-11

- > Do you identify more with the accusers or the accused? Why? Be honest with yourself!
- > When is it easiest for you to judge others unfairly?
- > When is it easiest for you to judge yourself unfairly?

THURSDAY: Read Psalm 32

- > Which verse from this psalm makes the biggest impression on you, and why?
- > Write out a personal prayer of confession.

FRIDAY: Read Romans 6:1-14

- > Re-read this passage and make a note of words or phrases that don't make sense.
- > If God will always forgive us, why should we be concerned about our sin and evil desires?
- > This passage teaches us to "offer every part" of ourselves to Jesus (v. 13). What's the next area of your life that you need to surrender to God?

SATURDAY: (No reading! Catch-up day!)

- > Is it more difficult for you to forgive others or forgive yourself? Why?
- > What would it look like for you to make confession a daily spiritual habit?
- > When is it easy for you to obey God? When is it most difficult?

MEDITATION VERSE

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