

HOW TO TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS...

... ABOUT GRACE

*“And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

~ 2 Corinthians 12:9

1. Review

- a. 1) Ask, and listen. *Know the truth, and know who you are talking to.*
- b. 2) Preach the excellence of Christ. *Every failure to rightly divide diminishes Christ and his finished work by the cross.*
- c. 3) What about grace... *without works, Israel, covenant, kingdom, signs, miraculous ability*
- d. Does grace promote sin? Is grace weak? Does grace limit God?

2. Grace Kills Sin

- a. They think grace permits, promotes, and praises sin. God forbid!
- b. What's the alternative? The law has no power to stop sin, only condemn it – Ro 3:21, 8:3
- c. Grace is an undeserved, unmerited, help → provided by Christ and his cross work.
- d. Grace is not overlooking, ignoring, or accepting sin → Christ died for sin!
- e. More than forgiveness, we are dead to sin *through Christ* – Romans 6:1-6,
- f. Grace teaches godliness through Christ in us not the law - Titus 2:11-12

3. Grace Shows God's Strength

- a. They think it doesn't help, God is “off the hook”, crutch, nice guys finish last, thus weak.
- b. Before people see strength in grace they must see/acknowledge their weakness.
- c. The weakness we have is not merely external, but internal, spiritual, of the heart.
- d. *“You must be strong”* – Spiritual strength comes from God's grace, not ourselves.
- e. Grace points to Christ → Christ is not a crutch, he is the ultimate replacement – Eph 3:6-9
 - i. Don't lean on him, be in him. He doesn't give you support, he gives you all.
- f. 2 Cor 9:8 – God is able to make all grace abound toward you
- g. 2 Cor 12:9 – Will it hold? It is sufficient. This shows the strength, not the weakness!
- h. Grace abounds over sin through righteousness (of God) - Rom 5:20-21, Col 1:11
- i. *“Grace be with you”* not the force, miracles and might, prosperity or popularity

4. Grace Gives God Greater Glory

- a. They think it limits God because grace teaches God's non-visual non-physical intervention
- b. Rather than purposes that fail – holy living, kingdom building, faith healing, etc.
- c. Why doesn't God intervene? What of the evil in the world? Where is God's glory? Grace.
- d. What brings more glory to God? Grace or judgment – grace or works – grace or miracles
 - i. If God were to punish that sinner – then why wouldn't he punish you? Mercy?
 - ii. If God were to reward that do gooder – then what of those who can't? Justice?
 - iii. If God were to heal the sick – then what of those who are not? Love?
 - iv. Grace is given to all – glory promised to all – acc. to his purpose – 2 Tim 1:9
 - v. At this time he is waiting for faith to give grace - Rom 4:16, 5:1-2
- e. The world measures strength and glory by physical might, money, power, popularity
 - i. Every weakness in this world demands God's grace...

- ii. Every evil deed in this world demands God's grace...
- iii. Every failure, struggle, vanity, person demands God's grace...
- iv. What does God provide to the praise of his glory? Grace to all. Eph 1:6, 2Cor 4:6
- f. God's grace is abundant and redounds by thanksgiving– 2 Cor 4:15, 1 Tim 1:14
- g. Eph 3:16-21 – The greatest glory to God is when he gives by grace. You glorify God by resting in it, being in him. God is glorified by his grace, it is not sinful, limited, weak.