

**Grace is
More than
we realise**

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Grace is the undeserved love of God applied to us for our benefit as those who have been chosen by God. God and His grace cannot be separated, for grace comes from the heart of God. Grace is the presence of God working for our good.

There is nowhere we can be on earth that can separate us from the grace of God, for God is everywhere we are.

'Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Rom 8:35-39

If we want to enjoy the fullness of His grace, we must live in His presence. We suffer a loss when we are absent minded in regards to walking in His presence.

Absent mindedness robs us of the complete pure overflowing love that we can know when we consciously abide in His presence, because He lives in us.

Grace always hits its mark, but our awareness needs to be focused on the presence of God for the uninterrupted pleasure of His love.

Jesus Christ has a lot to inform us of the promises of the presences of God so that we can live by the grace of our God.

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you."

John 14:16-18

"The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him." John 14:21

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him." John 14:23

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3

"I am not asking on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me." John 17:20-21

"The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and You loved them, just as You loved Me." John 17:22-23

"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt 28:20

Because we are born again in the image of Christ, by the Spirit, after repentance and faith have been implanted into us by God, showing our salvation is all by the grace of God; then the Father, Son and Spirit come to dwell with us who are part of the body of Christ. Therefore, we should be as concerned with the spiritual life of each other as the Triune God is concerned for our transformation into the image of Christ. God lives in us so we live for Him, so as one body we lie for each other in order to carry out His will.

All of us who are joined in Christ need to be concerned for our personal spiritual growth of devotion in obedience, along with that of our brothers and sisters in Christ; always having this at the forefront of our minds. In this spiritual union, the grace that comes from God is expressed through the 35 one another imperatives of the word of God to help us build up the body of Christ.

For this to happen, the fellowship we have with the Father and the Son by the Spirit needs to be the same quality of fellowship we have with one another.

Therefore, in the church we need to take personal responsibility for the growth of each other into the image of Christ, as this is our personal act of sacrificial worship in devoted service to God.

‘Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.’ Rom 12:1-2

We have received the love of Christ in order to share His love and purpose for each other, and also those still in the world.

‘The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.’ Rom 5:5

By this love working through us we will know who are His disciples.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.” Matt 19:20

Anything that falls short of extending His grace for the perfection of each other in Christ is false religion.

This is true religion. *‘I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.’* Gal 2:20

Grace is actually our interdependence working through the faithful lives of the elect.

My dearly beloved

In all the time that I have been placed in Christ by the Father, I have never been upheld, and understood, and supported spiritually as I am now by a few

godly men. Cometh the hour, cometh the men. It must be something in the wind!

Christ living in faithful men is my hope of spiritual fellowship and supported growth. Because of Christ working in the obedient servants of God, they are my opportunity for greater personal supported sanctification, and therefore effectiveness in service. Christ in us is our treasured mystery of divine grace and everlasting love.

May the Lord our God of glory compel us even more to walk together, moment by moment with Him, so He can live through us, as He does His work in all the chosen people who are with God now; and also, those who are still to come into Christ by His effectual calling. Praise the Lord our God, Who is, Who was, and Who is to come. Amen.

I have been given a few treasure chests to bring the light of God into my heart through sincere fellowship. They may be rough and unfinished, with splinters and defects on the outside, just like me, but on the inside, the treasure unspeakable, light that dispels darkness, bread that satisfies, the drink that refreshes, even a slain lamb that looks like a lion magnificent, the Spirit of Christ immortal, the Lord of lords, the King of kings.

I have been privileged to know a few who recognise what is in me that I am compelled to share, because it resonates with their spirit. I recognise this because they can put the same truths of God into their own words and reflect it back to me. These are they who know something of worshipping in spirit and truth.

Our God has come to dwell with us who are in Christ, so that His glory can burn off our imperfections as we look out for the spiritual life of one another, just so we can be like Him. Who can understand this mystery hidden from the world? But together we can have the mind of Christ. Hallelujah.

Let us share with each other what the treasure within each of us is doing in us for His glory. For this is our reason for living. Let us have the transparency of the Spirit so that we are not afraid to expose our weakness, in order to find strength in His grace flowing from each other.

Please don't let my splinters and imperfections hinder your embrace, for I am in great need of the love and the grace of our God growing in you.

Can we who are in Christ agree to be treasure chests, and treasure hunters, living for the treasure implanted in our hearts, to encourage treasure seekers to see Christ, and be committed to revealing the treasure in us to the poverty that is inherent in the world?

"By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Let nothing attract us but Christ in us; we are for Him, and live through Him, for each other, and all those the Father has given to the Son by the Spirit.

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." Isaiah 11:1

If the root is true, the fruit will also be good fruit, consistent with the life of the root planted by God. The root hides the treasure of God in the hearts of those who have died to self to live for Him.

Are there any more treasure chests out there who no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf?

Let's be logical

Let's examine by a syllogism. A syllogism uses an instance of a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn from two given or assumed propositions.

For instance: The church belongs to Christians, all who claim to be Christians have Christ.

Is this a true syllogism, and therefore a true conclusion? No. The proposition is untrue.

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And

then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' Matt 7:21-23

Let's try another: All who have died to self through repentance have Christ. All who have Christ are Christian. All Christians make up the church. Is this a true syllogism? Yes

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." John 6:37

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." John 14:15

The proposition is sound. Since salvation is by God through Christ by faith alone. And that He, God, is absolutely dependable in providing truth and life. The result of His work will be the evidence of the life of Christ and His purpose in those He has chosen to give to Christ. Those who show the fruit of Christ's life of love and sacrifice are true Christians.

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

The grace of the Lord Jesus is available in each of us. For the good of others by the power of the Spirit.

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Rom 8:9-14

'For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.'

2 Cor 5:14-15

'So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honour; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.'

Rom 12:5-12

'For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.'

Col 3:3-4

Grace and peace in the presence of God is for all those who the Father has given to the Son, so that they can build up one another in love.

Grace compels us to accept spiritual care for one another

It should not be surprising that the most repeated command we have from God is to love one another, because love is from God. This love seeks the highest good for one another as God in Christ seeks to transform us into the image of Christ. The one another verses of the Bible that relate to our shared lives in Christ indicate what His fellowship is supposed to look like. Our focus needs to be on life lived by the Spirit, otherwise we become people pleasers and neglect the commands of God. *'For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.'* Rom 8:14

The preponderance of these verses is calling on us to love one another, and should indicate to us that everything that follows in these imperatives is no less than an expression of that love in action. And since God's word

is prescriptive for how we should live, and because His savings grace is always effective, we could conclude that these one another verses are evidence of our regeneration in Christ. We are to be conveyors of God's grace.

1. Love one another. John 13:34; John 13:35; John 15:12; John 15:17; Rom 13:8; 1 Thess 3:12; 1 Thess 4:9 2; Thess 1:3 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Pet 4:8; 1 John 3:11; 1 John 3:23; 1 John 4:7; 1 John 4:11; 1 John 4:12; 2 John 1:5
2. Do not judging one another. Rom 14:13
3. Be devoted to one another. Rom 12:10
4. Be of the same mind. Rom 12:16; Rom 15:5
5. Build up one another. Rom 14:19
6. Accept one another. Rom 15:7
7. Able to admonish one another. Rom 15:14; Col 3:16
8. Greet one another with a holy kiss. Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12
9. Have the same care for one another. 1 Cor 12:25
10. Serve one another. Gal 5:13
11. Showing tolerance for one another in love. Eph 4:2
12. SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE...for we are members of one another. Eph 4:25
13. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other Eph 4:32
14. Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Eph 5:19
15. Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. Eph 5:21
16. with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; Phil 2:3
17. bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, Col 3:13

18. with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another Col 3:16
19. Abound in love for one another, 1 Thess 3:12
20. comfort one another. 1 Thess 4:18
21. encourage one another. 1 Thess 5:11 Heb 10:25
22. build up one another. 1 Thess 5:11
23. Live in peace with one another. 1 Thess 5:13
24. always seek after that which is good for one another. 1 Thess 5:15
25. But encourage one another day after day, Heb 3:13
26. stimulate one another to love and good deeds. Heb 10:24
27. encouraging *one another*; Heb 10:25
28. Do not speak against one another, James 4:11
29. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, James 5:9
30. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, James 5:16
31. pray for one another. James 5:16
32. Be hospitable to one another. 1 Peter 4:9
33. As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another. 1 Peter 4:10
34. keep fervent in your love for one another. 1 Peter 4:8
35. have fellowship with one another. 1 John 1:7

To be able to live for Christ and one another effectively, we have to be convinced that Christ possesses us, and actually lives in our innermost being. Otherwise, we only have a doctrine of Christ in us, and we fall back on the mind of the flesh. If we believe Christ is in us, all that He is, is available to us so we can live for Him as the light of the world.

A failure to keep the one another commands could be seen to shut ourselves away from the body of Christ. This is logical because the one

another verses make us tools of grace in Christ. In Christ we are intended to love one another as instruments of His grace.

One another care will be very difficult if we have a disconnect between what we say we believe, and how we actually live. Because belief determines behaviour, a disconnect between belief and behaviour means we need to re-examine our understanding of Rom 12:1-2. *'Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.'*

To be convenors of God's grace we need to obey all His word. To be in Christ is to live for Christ because we have taken up our cross to follow Him. (Matt 16:24; Luke 9:23-24) This means we obey all He has commanded.

Our obedience in loving one another is evidencing our love of Jesus.

"Whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do." John 14:12

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15

"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me."
John 14:21

"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word." John 14:23

"Whoever does not love me does not keep my words." John 14:24

The only way we can do as He says is to hear Him say: *"Abide in Me"*

"He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

'So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.'

Col 3:12-17

Contents compiled by
Robert C May
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cometotheriver@optusnet.com.au
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