

SGF May Celebration
“Allowing Grace to Permeate Your Life”

SECTION ONE: Where Do I Go from Here?¹

A. ✦ LIVE ✦ by Grace through Faith NOT Law

- We are SAVED by grace through faith not works.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- We LIVE by grace through faith not law.

Colossians 2: 6-7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord (by grace through faith), so walk in Him (by grace through faith), ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith (the gospel), as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Galatians 3:2-3

This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

B. ✦ GROW ✦ in Grace and Knowledge

- Praise God! The Christian life is not stagnant. Although we are completely saved and completely righteous and completely forgiven, we still get to grow in His unmerited favor and learn more about His wondrous accomplishments and participate in His ministry.

2 Peter 3:18

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

WARNING! The following are NOT Christian commandments.

- I. **REORIENTATION:** *Many of us have spent most of our Christian lives living under a mixture of law verses grace. Accept that it will take some time to get reoriented.*
- II. **THE CHOPPING BLOCK:** *Place EVERYTHING before Him. Ask Him to show you if there is anything you currently believe that is not true. Place everything there for His loving examination.*
- III. **TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT “THE GOSPEL”:** *The Good News is for believers, too. DISCOVER the unfathomable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8).*
 - ✦ *Accomplishments of the cross*
 - ✦ *Who you are in Him*
 - ✦ *His “better” New Covenant Promises*
- IV. **LEARN OF GOD’S GREAT LOVE FOR YOU.**

John 4:16
We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

*Knowing the truth
set you free.
Believing a lie
brought bondage.
Rediscovering the
truth will set you
free again.*

¹ We have an excellent video teaching series with printable notes entitled “So, Now What Do I Do?” available on our website: <http://www.graceandfaithministries.org/what-do-i-do-now>. It includes most of the topics on this page, plus some other helpful topics such as “Finding Fellowship” and “No Turning Back”

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

V. DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS.

Luke 5:38

But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.

VI. RID YOURSELF FOREVER OF THESE GRACE NULIFIERS: Ifs, Ands, Buts

2 Corinthians 1:20

For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are YES; therefore also through Him is our AMEN to the glory of God through us.

VII. ALLOW GRACE TO TEACH YOU (NOT LAW)

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

VIII. LET JESUS TRANSFORM YOU (NOT FORMULA).

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you (He) will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

IX. KNOW THAT YOU ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT (NOT LAWS or LISTS)

Romans 8:14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

This means that you can trust that the Spirit of God will show you what good works He has called you to walk in. All of those who believe in Jesus have a calling. We simply do what He leads us to do.

- **Learn the difference between natural laws (principles) and religious laws.** For example, exercise will build muscle and fitness (natural law). It's okay to set personal goals and take steps toward accomplishing them. HOWEVER, you are not made righteous before God because you keep your own guidelines or finish your to do list. He is not disappointed with you if you fall short of your own standards.

X. FOLLOW CHRIST'S NEW COVENANT COMMANDMENTS.

1 John 3:22-23

And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. ²³ And THIS is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

✦ *Can the Christian life really be this easy? Believe in Jesus and love each other? Yes! ✦*

SECTION TWO: Allow Grace to ✦ TRANSFORM ✦ Your Life & Relationships

A. ✦ LIVE ✦ this life FULLY!

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 4:14

“Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

B. ✦ LET GO ✦ of what is holding you back and hold on to what is true (belief & behaviors).

1 Thessalonians 5:21

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

D. ✦ EMBRACE ✦ your calling!

- All of us are called to love and good deeds, especially toward other believers.

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 10:24

Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.

Matthew 25:37-40

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

- Embrace your obvious ministries (the people and responsibilities in your life).

Whatever your current responsibilities are, whether you are a spouse, a parent, a friend, or at your job, see these as your ministry. Do them as unto the Lord.

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- Say YES to His special calling. Don’t be afraid to step into what the Lord may call you to do. He might call you to be a pastor, teacher, evangelist, apostle, or prophet. Or, he might give you a spiritual gift mentioned in Scripture. He might even speak something specific to you that He wants you to do. DO whatever He calls you to do.

E. ✦ EXTEND GRACE ✦ to yourself!!! When you fall short of perfection, forgive yourself.

F. ✦ LET GRACE ✦ (love & good deeds) CHANGE FOREVER your relationships.

Ephesians 4:31-21

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

TIPS FOR LIVING and GIVING GRACE

You have received grace, now GIVE it.

Subtitle: Giving Grace When it is MOST needed and LEAST deserved

...from our hearts and lives to yours...

1. RECOGNIZE that the only attitude and behavior you can change is YOURS.

- Understand deeply that there is **one** God, and one Mediator between man and God. Give people room for others to be imperfect, make mistakes, and learn/grow.
- Know that God is working in others both to will and to do of His good pleasure. (We tend to recognize that God is working in us to will and do, but sometimes forget that He is working in those we love as well. *(Parents, of course you will counsel, discipline, and guide your children, but help them to come to healthy choices with love and patient instruction from you.)*²

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your **own** salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

- **Forsake “motivation” and “manipulation”.** Let others also do what is right from their heart (grace) and not because they HAVE to (law).
 - Motivation: If you will XYZ then I will LMNOP (law: do good, get good), instead of “I will LMNOP expecting nothing in return,” (grace).
 - Manipulation: to control or play upon by artful, unfair, or insidious means especially to one's own advantage, to change by artful or unfair means so as to serve one's purpose .³

2. EXTEND KINDNESS + ESPECIALLY + to those who don't deserve it (in both word and deed).

- **Undeserved kindness expressed in MERCY**—not behaving punitively⁴ even though it is deserved. 100% total forgiveness without holding sins against someone (potentially for the rest of their lives!!!)

P.S. This is not to say that anyone should submit themselves to physical or mental abuse.

Matthew 18:21-33

Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

²² *Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”* ²³ *Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.* ²⁴ *And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to*

² Recommended reading: Families Where Grace is in Place by Jeff VanVonderen

³ Webster-Merriam Dictionary

⁴ Punitive—intending to punish or get revenge

him who owed him ten thousand talents.²⁵ But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.²⁶ The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'²⁷ **Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.**

28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, '**Pay me what you owe!**'²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'³⁰ And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.³² Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.'³³ **Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?**

- **Unmerited kindness expressed in GRACE**—giving of yourself and resources even though it is not earned.

Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

It isn't "fair" and it isn't "right" and it isn't "pleasant", but it is often the case, that sometimes our "enemies" (or those who behave like enemies) are those who are closest to us, either by relationship or proximity.

- **In short, GRACE instead of LAW!**
 - Comfort (grace) instead of Confront (law)
 - Set Boundaries (grace) instead of Fortifications (law)
 - Give (grace) instead of Withhold (law)
 - God's Love (grace) vs. Tough Love (law)
 - Everlasting LIFE (grace) instead of Everlasting DEATH (law)

You let grace save you.

Now let grace teach you.

Allow grace to permeate every aspect of your life,

ESPECIALLY YOUR RELATIONSHIPS!

This is going to take some time, so be patient with yourself.

You, and everyone you know

will be blessed.