

GRACE KILLER #10¹

Resisting His Grace

Review of Grace Killers 1-9²

1. Combining Covenants

Truth: Believers in Jesus are under ONE covenant only. The Old Covenant is obsolete.

Error: Believers are under the New Covenant, but parts of the Old Covenant still apply to us today.

2. Not Knowing What Paul Meant by “Law”

Truth: When Paul wrote “law” he meant the whole Old Covenant Law. The Old Covenant is BASED on the Ten Commandments.

Error: Believers are not under the civil and ceremonial laws, but we are still under the moral law; namely, the Ten Commandments.

3. Foolishness

Truth: When we try to perfect ourselves through religious law and formula we become estranged from Christ and fall from grace.

Error: Jesus’ death and resurrection was only a catalyst for change. The actual change that happens in us is through our spiritual discipline and personal holiness.

4. Ignorance

Truth: God has given us many gifts (who we are and what we have in Him). If we don’t know about these graces to us, we end up “living” a life of misery.

Error: Nothing really happened at the cross that affects us. We are only saved (at least we hope so), but that’s about it.

5. Sin Consciousness

Truth: We have been forgiven of all sins: past, present, and future. Jesus’ sacrifice for sin was good enough to remove all sin from us, even the consciousness of sin.

Error: Jesus forgave our former sins only. After salvation, when we sin, we must get those sins forgiven by confessing them. If we don’t, we will be separated from God, or be out of fellowship with Him until we get them “under the blood”.

6. Diminishing God’s Love

Truth: God loved us when we were His enemies, much more so now that we are His beloved children. There is nothing deeper, higher, or wider than God’s love for us.

Error: God’s love is where we start. We need to go deeper. To dwell on God’s love for us is child-like, to dwell on God’s love for you is self-centered.

7. Hierarchies

Truth: In the body of Christ we are all equal brothers and sisters.

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² The notes for this series are available for download at <http://graceandfaithministries.org/the-top-ten-grace-killers/>

Error: Some in the body Christ are a little “more” than others (more anointed, closer to God) and therefore, they have the right to rule over the rest of the body of Christ. They deserve to be honored by titles which set them one step (or several steps) above the rest.

8. Misunderstanding Sovereignty

Truth: God is sovereign. He reigns over His kingdom according to the principles He has set. He does not control individuals. He does not send evil to bring about good.

Error: Everything that happens in the earth and in our lives is either caused by God or allowed by Him. Nothing happens that isn’t His will. He is controlling everything. So, we can accept with joy any evil that happens on the earth or that happens in our lives.

9. Doubt and Unbelief

Truth: Without faith/belief, it is impossible to please God. Faith in Jesus is how we access all of God’s provisions and promises. If we do not believe or doubt, we will hinder His grace.

Error: It doesn’t matter if we believe, have unbelief, or doubt, “God’s gonna do what God’s gonna do.”

GRACE KILLER #10 Resisting His Grace

1. Those Who Reject His Grace of Salvation

*John 3:16-19*³

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

2. Those Who Become Estranged from Christ

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?

Galatians 5:4

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

3. Those Who Refuse to Wake Up When Revelation Comes

4. Those Who Deliberately Try to Hinder the Gospel of Grace

a. Non-believers

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18

But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. ¹⁸ Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

³ Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture is taken from The NKJV, The New King James Version

The emphasis is on an unnatural separation, both forcible and painful. At the same time, Paul felt sure that it was only temporary (for a short time), and he assured them that it was in person not in thought, which Bicknell neatly renders 'out of sight but never out of mind'.⁴

William Ramsay suggested that the satanic hindrance was the legal ban which the plutarchs of Thessalonica had put on Jason. They 'took security from Jason and the others before letting them go', with severe penalties if Paul were to return. 'This ingenious device put an impassable chasm between Paul and the Thessalonians'.⁵

b. Believers Who Pretend to Teach Grace (the gift of righteousness)

Sadly, there are those who use the word "grace" frequently as if to pretend to teach it, but actually either don't understand the ministry of righteousness or who are deliberately seeking to deceive others into thinking they are teaching it (in order to subvert it or to keep their power base). Some just mix the teaching of the gospel of grace back into the mixture they are already teaching (usually in the form of ifs, ands, & buts).

2 Corinthians 11:12-15

But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast.¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Ephesians 4:14

That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.

Romans 16:17-18

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Acts 20:28-30

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

5. Those Who Do Not Let Grace Teach Them

Some who now teach grace, incorrectly say that after we are saved, there is nothing else to be accomplished in our lives. Yet, this is an inaccurate view of what Paul taught.

⁴ Stott, J. R. W. (1994). *The message of Thessalonians: the gospel & the end of time* (pp. 61-62). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁵ Stott, J. R. W. (1994). *The message of Thessalonians: the gospel & the end of time* (p. 62). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Studies in Grace and Faith THE TOP TEN GRACE KILLERS

Using Hebrews 10:14⁶ and Philippians 1:6⁷ we can conclude that we are both perfected (*telieoo*) in regard to everything Jesus accomplished on the cross, and subsequently brought to a state of completion (*epiteleio*), which most certainly refers to our maturation, or one might say, to fulfilling what Jesus already accomplished. This would include aspects such as being transformed by the renewing of our mind (Rom. 12:2) and from glory to glory by beholding Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18). We aren't born again knowing every right from wrong, but grace teaches us to forsake worldly lusts and to live godly (Ti. 2:12). The fruit of the Spirit grows (Gal. 5:22). Our character develops (Rom. 5:3-4). We become rooted and grounded in God's love (Eph. 3:17). Our understanding and appreciation of what was accomplished through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection becomes clearer to us (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Our discernment between good and evil matures (Heb. 5:14). Let me put it this way. Everything that Scripture teaches was accomplished by Christ's death is "finished." Yet, there is a process of our current perfection being brought to completion from beginning to end. What is essential to understand is that it is Jesus who brings to completion this work that He started—not we through our own efforts. This growth comes by the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.⁸

a. The grace of God is constantly teaching us. Some resist or ignore grace.

Titus 2:10

But showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

"The teaching, though really practical, can be plausibly alleged to be mere theory; it must then, by good works, be rendered attractive to them that are without." Kosmeō, as used in our present passage, means therefore "to embellish with honor." The doctrine (teaching) is that found in verses 11-14. Wuest

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.

NOTES FROM WUEST

With regard to its use in the New Testament, we could say; "It is hardly too much to say that the mind of God has in no word uttered itself and all that is in His heart more distinctly than in this." In the ethical terminology of the Greek schools, Charis implied a favor freely done, without claim or expectation of return.

Aristotle, defining charis, lays the whole stress on this very point, that it is conferred freely, with no expectation of return, and finding its only motive in the bounty and free-heartedness of the giver.

Thus, in the N.T., Charis refers to an act that is beyond the ordinary course of what might be expected and is therefore commendable.

⁶ Hebrews 10:14: For by one offering He has perfected (*telieoo*) forever those who are being sanctified."

⁷ Philippians 1:6: being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete (*epiteleio*) it until the day of Jesus Christ.

⁸ Hildebrand, C. D. (2014-01-13). Are We Preaching "Another" Gospel? (Kindle Locations 811-823). Xulon Press. Kindle Edition.

"Hath appeared" is *epiphainō*, "to appear, become visible, to become clearly known."

"Teaching" is *paideuō*, "to instruct, train:"

"Ungodliness" is *asebeia*, "lack of piety or reverence toward God."

"Lusts" is *epithumia*, "a passionate desire."

"Worldly" is *kosmikos*, "worldly, having the character of this present age."

"Soberly" is *sōphronōs*, "with sound mind, temperately, discreetly."

"Godly" is *eusebōs*, "piously, godly."

Vs. 13 "Looking" is *prosdech-omai*, "to receive to one's self, to admit, give access to one's self, to receive into intercourse and companionship, to expect, look for, wait for."

Thus, that blessed hope is the glorious appearing of our Lord. The translation should read, "that blessed hope, even the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

"Blessed" is *makarios*, "prosperous." The hope we have of the return of our Lord to catch out the Church, is one that is prosperous, it is filled with richness, benefits, good things.

The Greek does not speak of "the glorious appearing." It is "the appearing of the glory" of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Vs. 14 "Special" "Peculiar" is *periousion*, from the participle of *perieinai*, "to be over and above." It also means, "possessed over and above," that is, "specially selected for one's own; exempt from ordinary laws of distribution." It refers therefore to a private possession. The word "peculiar" is from *peculium*, "a private purse, a special acquisition of a member of a family distinct from the property administered for the good of the whole family." Thus, Christians are the private possession of God.

Philippians 3:17-19

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

6. Those Who Do Not Allow Grace to Permeate Their Lives and Relationships (Grace for Me, but No Grace for You)

John 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- a. Family
- b. Friends
- c. Employer/Employee
- d. Other Relationships

Don't be a GRACE KILLER!

LET HIS GRACE PERMEATE YOUR LIFE AND 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.”

C. ✦ 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.

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

E. ✦ 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.)*⁹

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 .¹⁰

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

- Undeserved kindness expressed in MERCY—not behaving punitively¹¹ 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.

⁹ Recommended reading: Families Where Grace is in Place by Jeff VanVonderen

¹⁰ Webster-Merriam Dictionary

¹¹ Punitive—intending to punish or get revenge

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 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,

Studies in Grace and Faith THE TOP TEN GRACE KILLERS
ESPECIALLY YOUR RELATIONSHIPS!
This is going to take some time, so be patient with yourself.
You, and everyone you know
will be blessed.