

McLean Bible: Fuel  
The Grace to be Single  
Rev Bob Ragan

**A. Aspects of grace**

“Grace is the overflowing, immeasurable favor of God” Oswald Chambers, *Our Portrait in Genesis*

1. How is the word grace (charis 5485) defined? (According to Vine’s Expository Dictionary)
2. The NIV version of the New Testament, makes 114 references with the word grace
3. Why does Paul make so many statements connecting grace with peace?
4. Grace means we can remove the label of sinner
5. Grace is relational at its core
6. Grace allows us to receive God’s favor, the goal of strengthening our relationship with Him
7. The result of truly receiving His grace causes me to fall in love more deeply with Jesus
8. Grace goes beyond being merely a theological doctrine or belief
9. “The grace of God is absolute, but your obedience must prove that you do not receive it in vain.”  
Oswald Chambers, *Our Brilliant Heritage*
  - a. “They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.” Jude 1:4
- 10) Grace is experienced in the moment of need
- 11) Grace frees us from our past as if never existed such that nothing from it has the power to hold us back from becoming who the Father has destined us to be!

**Questions:**

1. How has the experience of grace impacted your relationship with God?
2. How have you seen grace used as an excuse or an allowance for sin?

**B. Grace to walk in the state of singleness**

“Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.” “I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord’s affairs—how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord’s affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 7: 8-9, 32-35

1. Those who are unmarried walk in the state of singleness
2. Singleness is not a holding pattern until you are married

3. Paul first makes reference to the single who struggles with their inner desires
4. We must individually meditate on these scriptures to determine how to make them manifest in our lives
5. Our goal as a Christian walking in the state of singleness is to intentionally engage in undivided devotion to the Lord
6. “But he 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.” 2 Corinthians 12:9
7. The grace of Jesus is especially powerful in assisting us with facing loneliness
8. “Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God’s grace.” 2 Corinthians 1:12
9. “So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.” Romans 11:5
10. “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.” 2 Thessalonians 2:16
11. “...through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2

**Questions:**

1. What does it look like have a life which is concerned about the Lord’s affairs?
2. How does a man please the Lord with his life?
3. What does it like for a woman to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit?

**C. As singles, how can we extend grace within our communities?**

1. As singles we cannot be unto ourselves
2. Grace challenges me to rise above my self-awareness in relation to others
3. “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.” Romans 12:6
  - a. “But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” 2 Corinthians 8:7
4. “I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power.” Ephesians 3:7
5. “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 4:6
6. “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of

**Questions:**

1. How has God’s grace enabled you to minister to the community around you?
2. What does it require to be faithful stewards of God’s grace?