

The Grace to be Single



A. Aspects of grace

“Grace is the overflowing,
immeasurable favor of God”

Oswald Chambers, *Our Portrait in Genesis*

Grace (charis 5485) defined

- bestows pleasure, delight, causes favorable regard
- a disposition from which the kindly act proceeds; graciousness, loving-kindness, goodwill
- divine favor or grace

The spiritual result of being
the recipient of grace is the
presence of peace at our core

I am no longer a sinner who is
occasionally a saint, but a
saint who has the capacity to
sin

Grace is relational at its core

- grace focuses on my heart
- grace has been extended because of the sacrifice and cross of Jesus
- although the cross addressed our sin, the primary work of the cross relationally connected us back to the Father

Grace goes beyond being merely a doctrine

- it's an encounter with the very nature of God
- it's an encounter with the heart of God
- we have the power to reject it

Grace does not make allowance for license and the embracing of sin:

“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

Grace, being relational, causes my following of Jesus not because I don't want to break His laws but rather that I don't break His heart

Grace frees us from our past as if
it never existed

- frees us to see God in His true character and nature
- reminds us of our true identity in Jesus
- reminds us that we are redeemed and restored

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.

Learning to celebrate your current state of singleness, will make you a better friend, but if you are to be married, it will also make you a better spouse.

Our goal is to intentionally engage in undivided devotion to the Lord

- does hunting for my future spouse, take precedence over devotion to the Lord
- have I become impatient, cynical, demanding, or chosen compromise

“My grace is sufficient for you”

- when I feel the most vulnerable God’s grace can and will be perfected in me
- I seek to embrace His favor, lovingkindness, and disposition in me
- His strength is alive and present to my circumstances

“God sets the lonely in families”
Psalm 68:6



“We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God’s grace.” 2 Corinthians 1:12

- Paul exemplified how singles can live a life of integrity and sincerity
- God’s grace will enable us to live moral lives

“So too, at the present time there is a remnant
chosen by grace.” Romans 11:5

- grace has caused you to become a part of God’s heavenly calling
- God’s grace has set you apart from the world
- God’s grace causes you to be part of something so much bigger

“...who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,”

- grace centers us back into the reality of being accepted in the Beloved
- grace reminds us that God defines us
- grace reminds us of God’s true nature and character

“...we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand...”

- through the cross we have access to faith
- through the cross we now share in the Father's favor
- being one in Christ, because of grace, we can now stand

In our trials and challenges of living in a chaste state of singleness, we can face our emotions and circumstances standing in the reality of hope that it will turn out well

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?



“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.” Romans 12:6

- each of us has been bestowed with gifts
- these gifts line up with our unique personalities and callings
- each of us is of direct benefit towards others

“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

- God’s grace enables us to be servants just like Jesus
- becoming a servant calls us out of diseased introspection and hyper self-awareness



“...serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

- when we become servants we are following after Jesus
- when we follow after Jesus, we come to know the Father
- by knowing the Father we embrace and become who He has created us to be

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?