



## GRACE VS LEGALISM

### 1. Definition

- Grace is God's unmerited favour
- Legalism is man's efforts to get something

### 2. Grace

- The word "grace", however, is used in the Bible to refer to all that God is free to do for mankind because of the Work that has already been performed for us by the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross.
- Grace means that man has received from God that which he has not earned or deserved.
- Nothing that we are, and nothing that we can do, is enough to qualify us for anything that the Lord has to give us.
- In fact, our works cause us to be arrogant in the presence of God, something He will not tolerate. – Is 64 :6
- **God the Father does the work, man receives the benefit. God receives the glory for His own works; man receives no glory.**

### 3. 4 Categories of Grace

- COMMON GRACE, or Grace which is common to all mankind, saved or unsaved , such as the rain which falls on the just and unjust.
- SAVING GRACE, the "gift of God, lest any man should boast", namely, Grace applied to the lost sinner.
- LIVING GRACE, the provision of God the Father for the needs of the believer for the rest of his lifetime. God provides everything that is needed for a prosperous, happy life for any believer who has "tasted grace" and avails himself of "more grace".
- SURPASSING GRACE, the Grace of God in eternity; what we will receive from God because of Salvation; what we will receive from God as crowns or rewards to be laid at the feet of Christ. – Eph2:7, 1 Cor 9:25

#### 4. Examples of Living Grace

- Grace in God's acceptance - Eph 1:6
- Grace in confidence in God's plan - 2 Thess 2:16
- Grace in prayer – Heb 4:16
- Grace in daily provision – Ps 84:11, Rom 8:32
- Grace in suffering - 2 Cor 12:9-10
- Grace in God's patience with us – Ps 103:8-12
- Grace in releasing the power of God - 2 Tim 2:1
- Grace in victory over sin – Rom 6:14
- Grace in spiritual growth - 2 Pt 3:18, 1 Cor 15:10
- Grace in spiritual gifts – Rom 12:6
- Grace in stability - 1Pt 5:12
- Grace in becoming gracious - 2 Cor 8:19
- Grace in method of living – Heb 12:28
- Grace in worship of God – Col 3:16
- Grace in the production of divine good – 1 Cor 15:10, Eph 4:29

#### 5. Abuses of Grace

- First, Grace is sometimes taken to mean that it is permissible to sin. Thus, Grace is used as an excuse for licentiousness. This is always condemned by the Word of God. – Rom 6:1-2; 1 Jhn 1:9; Jd 4.
- Second, Grace is sometimes taken as permission to be lazy (especially to skip Bible study). This idea violates all of the Bible's commands to study. – Heb 6:11-12; 2 Pt 1:5,10

#### 6. Legalism

- Grace depends solely on the character of God and entirely excludes human ability, human merit, human achievement, etc. Legalism, however, depends on human activity and ability.
- Our human system of work and reward is like this: I work for you and you pay me.
- We add onto what God has done and not allow Him to flow through us
- The word "legalism" also refers to any merit system which operates by works, by which a person tries to please God, or to assist God, or to glorify God by human power.
- There are four principal spiritual transactions in which Works are not accepted by God: Salvation, Spirituality, Maturity, and Reward.

## 7. Examples of legalism in our Salvation

- Believe + keep the Law of Moses
- Believe + be circumcised
- Believe + water baptism
- Believe + confess your sins
- Believe + give up your bad habits and fully surrender
- Believe + make a public display or have great sorrow of a show of tears
- Believe + church membership
- **But the Gospel is Believe plus Nothing!**

## 8. Summary

**Grace is to accept the work done by Christ and allow Him to flow through us and not add our own effort to it.**