

The Manifold Facets of the Grace of God

1 Peter 4:10

10 As every man hath received the gift, *even* so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Manifold - 1 a: marked by diversity or variety b: MANY; 2: comprehending or uniting various features: MULTIFARIOUS; 3: rightfully so-called for many reasons; 4: consisting of or operating many of one kind combined.

Facet - *any of the definable aspects that make up a subject (as of contemplation) or an object (as of consideration)*

Grace - NT:5485 charis (khar'-ece); from NT:5463; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude): KJV - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy).

Naturally, the word's various meanings were taken over from ordinary language by the New Testament writers. So it is entirely illegitimate to construct, based on all the occurrences of the word, a single doctrine that will account for all the various usages.

Most discussions of the Biblical doctrine of grace have been faulty in narrowing the meaning of "grace" to some unique sense and then endeavoring to force this special sense on all the Biblical passages.

[Stewards of the manifold grace.] Whatever gifts or endowments any man may possess, they are, properly speaking, not his own; they are the Lord's property, and to be employed in His work, and to promote His glory.

Jude 4

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lasciviousness means to be *LEWD, LUSTFUL, unbridled lust, excess, outrageousness, wantonness, insolence – proud.*

This kind of grace is destroying many churches and Apostolic people today. This is a perverted grace, a grace that makes excuses for their sin and love for the world. They are leaning and reaching for spiritual loopholes to justify their unbridled lust for more of the world. So, they change Bible terminology for more catchy phrases from the mainstream charismatic talk, such as “that’s your conviction” or “that’s a personal conviction.” You hear rhetorical statements like “You gotta keep up with modern technology, or modern Pentecost,” “That’s too old-fashioned.”

Music is one of the main things that is turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. The focus is on more sensual singing, and feeling the beat becomes very important. Is it any wonder that many Apostolic churches are filled with fornication among their young people; all because they use grace to excuse and disguise their lust? Lascivious grace allows compromise and sin to sit on the pews and live an open lifestyle of rebellion against the pulpit.

They say, “come with your televisions, wedding bands, rings, movies, immodest dress, worldly attachments, and we will help you” This is their apostate cry. However, their idea of help is just to keep you sitting there with your sins, and hopefully, one day, you will get it. Lascivious grace will not preach holiness and separation with conviction anymore from the pulpit, but prefers to let them pick it up by observing the standards or gently explaining them on a one-on-one basis. This kind of grace can never build a strong Apostolic church; it will never allow the manifold grace of God to work.

Titus 2:11-12

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

Deny means to refuse to accept as true or right; reject as unfounded, unreal, etc.; to refuse to acknowledge as one's own; disown; repudiate; to refuse the use of or access to.

In order to get the manifold grace of God to work in a person's life, they must first see grace as a teacher and not a condoner. It's important to notice the exact details the apostle presents concerning the nature and function of grace and its daily purpose in our lives. Saving grace is an ongoing teacher. So, what does it teach, and how does it teach?

The "what" is defined in the verse itself. Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust. This is the polar opposite of what is being taught in the lascivious grace crowd. They are so deprived of spiritual conscience and bankrupt of the knowledge of a holy God that they can't even define what worldly lust means. For the record, worldly lust is simply an uncontrollable, insatiable desire for the very things that make this world tick. Cosmos is the Greek word for world, which means a system of beliefs and concepts that better represents man and his nature.

So, to lust for the world is to strongly desire to follow after the world. How? Through the trends of dress, entertainment, and concepts that reflect the way the world thinks. So then, grace is a teacher that promotes how God thinks, His concepts, His dress, and His nature. An earthly sensual lifestyle does not fit a heavenly calling.

Grace teaches that if I allow ungodliness and worldly lust in my life, it will prevent God from working in and through me. God will not be able to perform His will through me. So grace, which is that Divine influence upon my heart, reflects the holiness of God in my life. For God said be ye holy for I am holy.

Without grace, it's law; it's what we are doing. With grace, it's God and what He is doing. If I only live holy because that's what the Bible says, then I am a law-keeper. But if I live holy because of the divine influence upon my heart, God is working in me because of the seed, which is the Word of God, and the Spirit within me that causes me to walk in His statutes and keep His judgments, then it's grace. It's what I am and not what I do. I do this because of what I am. When it's law, the attention is on us. When it's grace, God gets the glory.

1 Peter 4:11

11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Looking at the next verse in our text we see how the grace of God works. It's through the ability which God gives so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ who lives in you and through you by the blood and gift of the Holy Ghost. As we minister or serve let's do it by the grace of God, the ability that God gives and not of our own selves.

In order for the grace of God to work in a manifold way in my life, I have to get this grace. After it has appeared to me, I have got to get a hold of it. There are two ways to get this grace:

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God.

Romans 5:2

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

This saving grace works by faith—grace through faith. To access grace or in other words, to lay hold of grace, one must first employ faith. Without faith it's impossible to please God. You won't access grace! So, then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. How shall they hear without a preacher? Grace that saves is in direct proportion to how much faith you have. Or how much preaching you are willing to incorporate in your life through submission and obedience to the preaching.

In the new covenant God chose the foolishness of preaching to SAVE them that believe. Grace is teaching us the nature of God and how to live godly, soberly and righteously in this present world through the five-fold ministry. Our obedience to the preached word will determine how much grace we access in our lives.

James 4:6

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

The other way to get grace is through humility. God will not open the understanding of the proud. The proud will not get the Word of God. The manifold grace of God will not work with the proud because God resists them. If we are saved by grace, then we must get grace to be saved. God gives more grace, but He only gives it to the humble. The humble have broken up the fallow ground of their heart so the Word of God can fall on the good ground. The humble get the manifold grace of God to work in their life because He keeps giving more grace. When God gives grace, this is then grace as a gift.

The manifold grace of God works in many ways. Again, a mistake is made when grace is narrowed down to one definition or one concept. Those that only believe that grace is unmerited favor can become the ones that turn grace into lasciviousness because they believe that grace is unmerited. One definition of unmerited is to not be worthy of. A believer is worthy, for he is counted worthy of the Kingdom of God. In order for him to be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God, he must first be counted worthy of God's grace, for it's by grace we are saved through faith.

To the sinner it is unmerited, but to the believer it is not. It is accessed through faith by a humble heart. If grace was unmerited throughout the believer's life, then that believer could live like they wanted and still have access to grace. But shall we sin that God's grace may abound? God forbid. Grace is not a license to sin, it is a teacher of righteousness, godliness, soberness, and holy living to the believer.

The manifold grace of God is the many facets and multiple dimensions of God's grace that works in our life on a daily basis. There is a grace to heal, grace to forgive, grace to deliver. There is a sustaining grace on a daily basis that is sufficient for thee. There is grace to overcome; a grace to walk in dominion. Also, there is grace to love, a grace to keep God's commandments, and to live by His word.

Grace is a gift in that God gives it when it is needed, Ephesians 2:8. Grace is a teacher, Titus 2:12. Grace is the favor of God.

Proverbs 12:2

2 A good *man* obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

Grace is sufficient, it's enough to meet the needs of a situation or a proposed end. Grace brings revival, grace teaches holiness, grace saves, grace keeps, grace supplies power and anointing.

One of the most powerful definitions of grace in the Greek is the divine influence upon the heart and the reflection in the life. This divine influence becomes one of the manifold facets of God's grace that is more powerful than all the rest. This divine influence must be working in our lives and hearts if we are going to be saved. It's where grace terminology becomes its finest.

2 Peter 1:3-4

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Romans 5:20

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

We are now partakers of the Divine nature. Grace has become our new nature. We are influenced by a Divine influence which is grace. Nature is a force, it's an influence, we could not help but sin because that was our nature, but now we are partakers of a different nature a Divine nature. The word Divine means of God.

Where we had sin in our heart as a sinner and that was the greater influence, when we were born again, God took the sinful heart out and gave us a new heart—a heart of flesh, that can come under the Divine influence by His grace and reflected in the life.

Grace is now your new nature; you don't have to keep failing God and continue to live in condemnation. Get a hold of some grace, for He giveth more grace. Grace will give you power to become the sons of God, grace will give you a Divine influence that's more powerful than sin, so you can live right and please God.

Grace will deliver you; grace will set you free; grace will revive you; grace will renew you; grace will heal you; grace will comfort you; grace will enable you. His grace will be sufficient for you, grace will save you.

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and he and his family were saved from the flood.

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