

Grace Series 2 of 3
Understanding Grace
Romans 5

- 1. Understanding Grace**
- 2. Standing Firm in Grace**
- 3. Extending Grace to Others**

dictionary definition of Grace

Grace - (in Christian belief) the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.

Favor

Noun - approval, support, or liking for someone or something.
Verb - feel or show approval or preference for.

Conditional favor or approval is based on our performance. This is the way of the world and we are steeped in this way of thinking that carries over into our relationship with God. Am I living up to the expectations of others?

Access to Grace through Faith Romans 5:1-2

- Example of getting Miska to access the freedom of dog park
- Justified- Just as if I had never sinned
 - Freedom from condemnation and guilt
 - Free to enjoy God's presence (being with Him)
- Access is by Faith - Why by Faith? Romans 4:16
- Through Our Lord Jesus Christ - the way He gets us there

We have been called to not only enter or access this grace but to take a firm stand in it.

The Struggle is Real

- **Paul's Admonition to Timothy 2 Timothy 2:1**
- Emancipation Proclamation was a presidential proclamation and executive order issued Sept. 22, 1862 to come into effect on Jan. 1, 1863. It changed the legal status for 3.5 million african american slaves and gave them freedom from slavery and made them free men in the sight of the law.
- There was severe opposition from others to their change of status
- There also was a struggle within the hearts and minds of those born into slavery

- God has made a declaration of freedom from the slavery of sin through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We face a similar struggle
 - example of Jesus - Luke 4: 3 IF you are the Son of God ... **then prove it by performing**
 - We are aware of our shortcomings
 - We tend to revert back to being accepted by God by performance
 - When we pray it is based on performance

How Do We Take Our Stand in Grace?

- 1. By Offering Ourselves Up as a Living Sacrifice Romans 12:1**
 - It is the ultimate act of faith to give up one's life and put it in the hands of another - Example of Jesus on the cross
 - It is the going our own way that has led us to slavery in the first place - Being the God of my life
 - Consider yourself dead to sin but alive to God Romans 6:8-14
 - Struggle between the flesh (old sinful nature) and the Spirit (new nature)
 - If we are to stand in His grace we must allow Him to lead us there or we will keep going back to slavery
- 2. Transforming of our Mind Romans 12:2**
 - World wants to conform us
 - God wants to transform us
 - Changing the way we think changes the way we act
 - Think Grace
 - Guard your heart by guarding your mind- Proverbs 4:20-23
 - We need to be immersed in His grace by being immersed in His word
 - Deuteronomy 6:4-9
 - Meditate on God and His Word Psalms 1:1-3