

# Grace Is...

Provision - a preparatory step taken to meet a possible or expected need

Providence (examples) – Rain & sunshine → plants, food → animals, food, clothing, shelter → man

Grace – the unmerited abounding provision of the unrestrained operation of God's infinite love through Jesus Christ on behalf of man, especially he who depends on Him.

Purpose of grace – to restore everything spiritually lost because man sinned, grace makes possible and sustains a new creation on a far higher plane than any other creation.

**Grace is... the operation of God's love (Love is an action!)**

Note: All **Grace is...** statements tie back to the definition of grace.

God's love

in Action

Expressed by Grace

John 3:16

loved the world

Hebrews 2:9

by grace sent Jesus suffered death

John 13:1

loved His own to the end

John 1:16

of His fullness, grace upon grace

Ephesians 1:4

those chosen in love

Ephesians 2:7

exceeding riches of His grace

God's love is infinite. 1 John 4:16 – 'God is love.' As God is infinite, so is His love and grace.

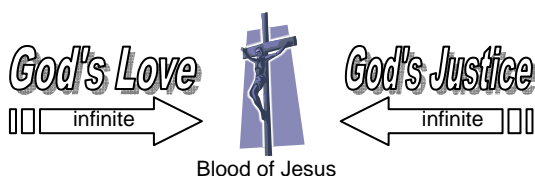
**Grace is... unmerited.**

Romans 11:6, Romans 4:4 - Can't be earned – God's grace always acts first on behalf of man, before man can act on behalf of God.

Romans 5:8, 10, 20 – Every man deserves the opposite of grace. Man = sinner = enemy of God.

**Grace is... the unrestrained operation of love**

If God's love is infinite, then what could restrain it from us should He want to give it? Only something equally infinite and therefore from God, could restrain his love – God's Justice. For the sinner to satisfy God's justice, the law requires that the sinner die. If the sinner is then put to death, how can love operate on his behalf?



Rom. 6:23 – "The wages of sin is death"

1 John 4:10 – God himself supplied what was needed.

1 John 2:2 – God's love found a way to satisfy God's justice.

Ex. Abraham sacrifice of Isaac – God provided the ram – Gen. 22:8

Propitiation - to appease or conciliate somebody or something, that which satisfies divine justice, the propitiation is the blood of Jesus Christ

Apart from the death of Jesus Christ, God can't deal with fallen man on any other basis than that of law and justice. When Christ died, the restraint upon God's love was removed and love set free to act. This removal of restraint upon love is essential to grace. What a price, in suffering and shame, the Son of God paid, that God's love might be free to operate in grace!

Grace is not... pity or compassion  
 Grace is not... forbearance  
 Grace is not... setting aside justice and passing over sin

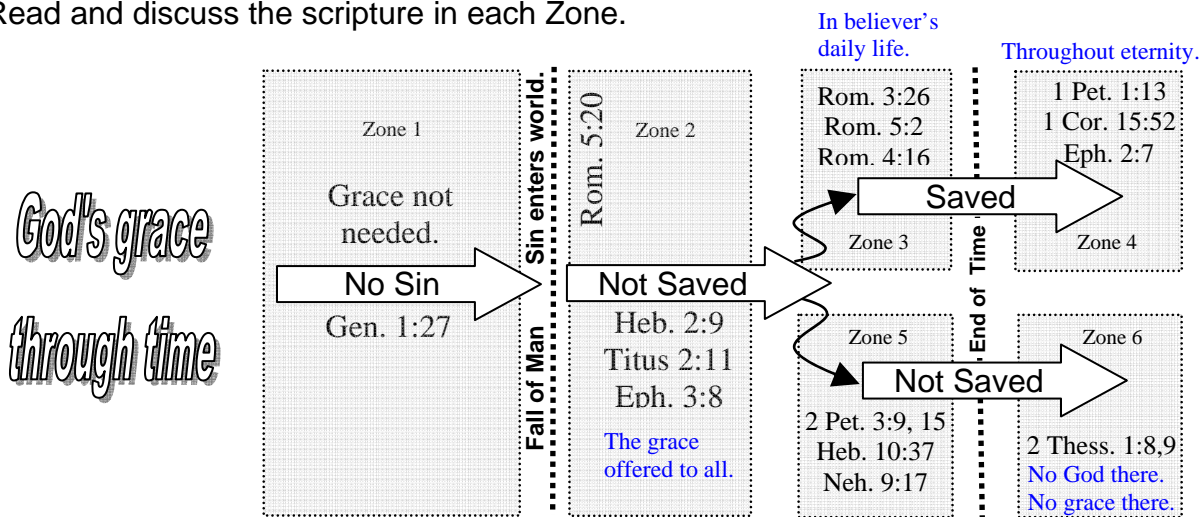
Remember: God has not compromised His values. Sin is forgiven because the penalty has been paid by Jesus.

**Grace is... on behalf of all man, especially those who believe**

God surely could have established a plan to return the fallen angels had he wanted to.

There is nothing in the bible that shows God's grace operating on behalf of the fallen or unfallen angels, only on behalf of man. Grace primarily benefits those that believe (Rom. 4:16), although God does withhold his judgment upon the unsaved and offers salvation to all men (Titus 2:11). (See Zone 5)

Read and discuss the scripture in each Zone.



Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grace is... through Jesus Christ**

John 1:16, 1 – Apart from Jesus, there is no grace.  
 Eph. 1:3 – All spiritual blessings in Christ.  
 Eph. 1:7, Rom. 3:24 – In Christ is redemption through His blood and forgiveness of sins.  
 Rom. 8:32 – By faith in Jesus we receive all things (the gifts of grace).

Grace is God's provision to bring into being, sustain, and perfect His new creation in Christ Jesus. It is the operation of His infinite love on behalf of sinners who are worthy of everlasting punishment. This outpouring of God's infinite love is possible only because Jesus Christ, by His death, fully satisfied the demand of God's justice. As grace came by Jesus Christ, only those who are saved are under grace.

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