

BONUS VIDEO 2

In our June session, we worked out implications of the gospel. We said the gospel is the good news that Jesus died to take away our sins and give us his righteousness. This means we become right with God by virtue of a gift. We also said, when we work the truth of that gospel into every facet of our lives, we become healthier, more contented, more Christlike people.

The most important element of that thing called the gospel is something called “grace.” Grace, undeserved love, is the most foreign substance in the universe because it is not naturally produced here. It broke into this realm through Jesus. But it is now the primary way God anticipates us distinguishing ourselves from the non-believing world.

Every Christian virtue is essentially grace combined with some aspect of life. So, for instance...

- Grace + Time = Patience
- Grace + Talent = Service
- Grace + Money = Generosity
- Grace + Material Possessions = Sharing
- Grace + Relationships = Forgiveness
- Grace + Self-Awareness = Humility
- Grace + Conflicts = Listening
- Grace + Social Interaction = Witnessing

Christians generally seem to be fairly concerned about the morally right thing. While morality is good, it's not uniquely Christian. It's entirely possible, and you should probably anticipate, that at times you are going to find both religious and irreligious people who are superior to you when it comes to morality. Every world religion and even irreligious people hold to some form of morality. But GRACE, undeserved love, on the other hand, is distinctly Christian. To determine where Christ is leading you in life, particularly in many of the grey areas of life, ask *What does grace look like here?*

QUESTIONS FOR BONUS VIDEO 2

1) Martin Luther and other theologians have described sin as the human heart *incurvatus in se* (which is Latin for) “the human heart turned inward upon itself.” This is different from what our hearts were created to be, which is aimed toward God first, and others ahead of self. Walk through the various aspects of your life right now – friendships, dating, college, job, health, future, etc. and share with the group how you think you’re doing in making your goals and decisions primarily about God, and about others ahead of self.

2) Grace is *undeserved* love, which is obviously different from *deserved* love. Even the non-believing world knows and practices *deserved* love. Can you give an example from your life where you’ve seen someone clearly express *undeserved* love?

3) Morality is a GOOD thing. But it is not the hallmark of the Christian faith. Grace is. Is this the impression you’ve received in your Christian upbringing? How can we, the Christian Church, better communicate to the world that morality is important, but grace is what we’re most about because grace is truly what saves us?