

God Is What?! (His Attributes)

God, He is Grace

God "is" – His attributes do not speak of what God **has**.

They are things that God **is**.

- In other words, God doesn't have these attributes – because He then could **lose** them, **use them up**, or **run out**.
- God is a **person**
- God is **good**
- God is **omnipotent**, **omniscient**, and **omnipresent**.

This means: all-**powerful**, all-**knowing**, and all-**present**

- God is **justice** and **mercy**.
- God is sovereign (the **absolute**, **Supreme** Ruler of all and He answers to no one).
- God is **holy**.

Last week, we talked about God is **holy**.

He is so high, so set apart and morally pure it's hard for us to **comprehend** it – yet He **commanded** us to be holy and we talked about how we can be holy.

* Now I know I have been very theological and doctrinal – don't phase me out.

1. God said I am looking for people who will worship Me in **spirit** and in **truth**.

Theology, doctrine and truth is the **skeleton** of the Body / Church.

- It is our **bone** structure that causes us to walk **uprightly** in the kingdom.

Spirit is the **skin**

- In other words, if you go to a church that's all doctrine and no Spirit (normally you describe it as **cold**).
- We don't need just the skeleton, we need the **spirit** that brings life.
2. When you go to church, you want to feel God and touch God – the **skin** or the **spirit**.

You cannot have a baby without a skeleton. It will just flop around – **goofy** and no **structure**.

Paul said you have all the gifts but let all them function **decently** and in **order**.

- Paul said, let me give you some **doctrine** or **structure** to walk in.

3. Wrong doctrine produces wrong **behavior**; bad doctrine produces bad **decisions**.

To help lead us into the definition of grace, let me remind you of justice and mercy.

Justice – is **giving** someone what he or she deserves.

Mercy – is **not giving** someone what He deserves.

Definition of grace is: giving someone what he or she doesn't deserve.

Grace – is not deserved, it is unearned, unmerited, undeserved favor of God.

* Mercy is God's goodness confronting guilt.

* Grace is God's goodness confronting our sin.

Hear this fully:

4. Grace is the only answer for **sin**, the only answer.

If I asked the question, what is the opposite of sin?

Our answer would be: **righteousness** (that's not the answer).

Sin is **missing** the mark, righteousness is **hitting** the mark.

God defines it differently: God says the opposite of sin for you is grace.

Why? Because you can never be righteous enough.

Romans 5:20b

²⁰ ...But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more

- Where sin reigns in **death**, so also grace reigns **now**.
- Grace **annihilates** sin
- Grace puts sin in its **place**

Yes, grace in its power **imputes** righteousness to us and that causes us to **want** to walk holy and upright before God.

Titus 2:11-12

- If you don't understand **true grace**, you will always have problems with sin.
5. The grace that brings us salvation teaches us to **deny** ungodliness.

So – God is grace, He doesn't have grace, He is not part grace, He is **completely, totally** grace.

For example: Some people believe when God extends some of His grace, He is holding back His justice and righteousness – we are just lucky that God stepped out of character and gives us grace.

No – God is **completely, totally** grace. He is grace, kindness, mercy, compassion, and He is love.

He is **everything** that is God.

John 1:17

6. God sent grace to live on this earth for 33 ½ years; **Jesus** was grace.

7. The Father is exactly like Jesus and Jesus acts, looks, talks, lives, breathes, and thinks just like the **Father** and the **Holy Spirit** living in you shows you.

Let me inform you: every religion in the world other than Christianity is based on **works**.

Every other religion is a copy of the **Old** Covenant, not the **New** Covenant.

Look what the Pharisees said to Jesus:

John 6:28-30

8. Jesus said "the" work of God is that you **believe** the One that the Father sent.
 - Christianity is the only religion where you can have a relationship with the Head Guy (God) through grace – simply by **believing**.

What is grace: grace brings a person who is out of favor, who is in sin, into God's favor by **removing** sin (unmerited favor).

Unmerited favor – means you have no **merits** or **credits** toward Heaven.

9. Grace not only allows me to go to Heaven, grace **cancel**s my debt, your debt **completely**.

Let me give you some things regarding grace:

A. Grace is **eternal**.

Ephesians 1:4-6

Verse 4: Just as He chose us in Him...

When did He choose you?

Answer: **before** the foundation of the world.

* Before **creation**, God was **grace**.

- He **was** grace
 - He **is** grace
 - **Always be** grace
- His grace was operating before there was anyone there to **receive** it.

He chose all of you **before** you chose Him.

He didn't base His choice on your performance (you weren't there) or your **future** performance – according to Isaiah, the best thing about what I do is **filthy** rags.

10. My righteousness is as of filthy rags based in comparison to **His righteousness** which I now have.

Here is the second thing about grace:

B. Grace is **free**.

Romans 3:24

- Grace cannot be **earned** or **paid for** after you get it.

Here is the third thing about grace:

C. Grace is the opposite of **works**.

- The opposite of sin is **grace** (I have sin and I need **grace**).

What am I saying in this point:

- * Now that I received grace and its revelation, the opposite of grace is I go back to **works** – now I'm going to show God I'll work for it.

Ephesians 2:8-9

- * When you get to Heaven, you won't be able to **boast**.

Salvation is only manifested by **grace**.

Listen closely: the Lord didn't marry you so you could work for Him. You didn't marry your wife so she could work for you.

If a husband marries so the wife could work for him – He's **sick** and that's a **sick marriage**. If all you think is working for God, that is **sick theology**.

Let me set you free:

- God didn't marry you so you would work for Him – He married you because He **loves** you.

11. God created Adam and Eve for **relationship**.

Adam and Eve were created and there was no **law** and the tree was about their **will**.

If I ask you, are you as a Christian under the law? If you hesitate, that's **sick**. That's an indictment to pastors who are not teaching grace. It also is indicative of the bondage many Christians live in.

12. Clearly we are not under law, but under **grace**.

Question: who is grace?

Answer: **God** – we are **under God**

Matter of fact, the law was given to **frustrate** us to bring us to Christ.

* If sin never entered the world, the law would never have been given.

The law was given so we knew we needed a savior.

Galatians tells us the law was a **tutor** until we came to Christ

The king left His castle to **marry** you.

D. Grace is bestowed upon the **undeserving**.

Pharisees say – I thank you I'm not like other men – really

All of us were **undeserving**.

God threw the **lifeline** to you and not His Son.