

## Understanding the Mercy and Grace of God – Student Handout

In our day of contemptuousness, we have grown to the point where we now have a natural tendency to take life for granted, and what's much worse is to take the God of life for granted. This we see displayed and demonstrated in the misuse and abuse of the Word of God. We nonchalantly apply Scriptures in ways that it was not designed to be used, and this causes us to use Scripture only as we think it would benefit us. The main problem is it causes us to view God in a manner that He has not shown to us, thus, making our relationship with him to be far less than what it should be. This misunderstanding has caused us to selfishly seek the grace of God before we ask for the mercy of God.

### "What is the definition of mercy?"

- There are several verses will serve to illustrate and highlight mercy as it relates to forgiveness or the withholding of punishment from God.
  - Check the following references: **Psalm 59:5; Isaiah 55:7; Luke 16:24; Luke 18:13; Romans 11:30-32; 1 Timothy 1:16**
  - These verses highlight mercy as it relates to having compassion upon a person with a need: **Matthew 15:22; Matthew 17:15; Matthew 20:30; Mark 5:18-19; Romans 12:6-8**
1. In the Bible, mercy is extended to an offender in the form of \_\_\_\_\_ or to the suffering in the form of healing or other comfort. In any case, mercy can be characterized as \_\_\_\_\_ treatment of those in distress.
  2. Mercy and grace are often used interchangeably, however, they do not mean the same thing.
  3. Mercy is forgiving the sinner and withholding the punishment that is justly deserved.
  4. Grace is heaping \_\_\_\_\_ blessings upon the sinner. In salvation, God does not show one without the other.
  5. In \_\_\_\_\_, the believer experiences both mercy and grace.

### "What is the definition of grace?"

- Grace is an essential part of God's character. Grace is closely related to God's benevolence, love, and mercy. Grace can be variously defined as

“God’s favor toward the unworthy” or “God’s benevolence on the undeserving.”

- In His grace, God is \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive us and bless us abundantly, in spite of the fact that we don’t deserve to be treated so well or dealt with so generously.

We need to consider who we were without Christ and who we become with Christ.

- We were born in sin (**Psalm 51:5**), and we were guilty of breaking God’s holy laws (**Romans 3:9–20, 23; 1 John 1:8–10**).
- We were enemies of God (**Romans 5:6, 10; 8:7; Colossians 1:21**), deserving of death (**Romans 6:23a**).
- We were unrighteous (**Romans 3:10**) and without means of justifying ourselves (**Romans 3:20**).
- Spiritually, we were destitute, blind, unclean, and dead. Our souls were in peril of everlasting punishment.
- God extended His \_\_\_\_\_ to us.
  - Grace is what saves us (**Ephesians 2:8**).
  - Grace is the essence of the gospel (**Acts 20:24**).
  - Grace gives us victory over sin (**James 4:6**).
  - Grace gives us “eternal encouragement and good hope” (**2 Thessalonians 2:16**).
  - Jesus Christ is the embodiment of grace, coupled with truth (**John 1:14**).
- The Bible repeatedly calls grace a “\_\_\_\_\_” (e.g., **Ephesians 4:7**). This is an important analogy because it teaches us some key things about grace:
  - First, the fact that grace is a gift means that nothing is owed in return.
  - Second, A gift is free to the recipient, although it is not free to the giver, who bears the expense.

- Third, once a gift has been given, ownership of the gift has transferred, and it is now ours to keep.
- Fourth, in the giving of a gift, the giver voluntarily forfeits something he owns, willingly losing what belongs to him so that the recipient will profit from it.
- Finally, the Bible teaches that grace is completely \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Romans 4:4; 11:5-6; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; Romans 5:8-10)
- Grace does not \_\_\_\_\_ once we are saved.
- Grace ***justifies*** us before a holy God (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:6; Titus 3:7).
- Grace ***provides*** us access to God to communicate and fellowship with Him (Ephesians 1:6; Hebrews 4:16).
- Grace ***wins*** for us a new relationship of intimacy with God (Exodus 33:17).
- Grace ***disciplines*** and trains us to live in a way that honors God (Titus 2:11-14; 2 Corinthians 8:7).
- Grace ***grants*** us immeasurable spiritual riches (Proverbs 10:22; Ephesians 2:7).
- Grace ***helps*** us in our every need (Hebrews 4:16).
- Grace ***is*** the reason behind our every deliverance (Psalm 44:3-8; Hebrews 4:16).
- Grace ***preserves*** us and comforts, encourages, and strengthens us (2 Corinthians 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:1).
- Grace is ***actively and continually*** working in the lives of God's people.
- Grace is the ***ongoing***, benevolent act of God working in us, without which we can do nothing (John 15:5).
- Grace is ***greater*** than our sin (Romans 5:20), more ***abundant*** than we expect (1 Timothy 1:14), and too ***wonderful*** for words (2 Corinthians 9:15).

**Conclusion:**

As the recipients of God's grace, Christians are to be gracious to others. Grace is given to us to "serve" others and to exercise our spiritual gifts for the building up of the church (Romans 12:6; Ephesians 3:2, 7; 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10).