

Giving Someone the Gift of Grace
Series: The Good News About Grace
February 7, 2010 Pastor Bill Bump

REVIEW: WHAT IS SAVING GRACE?

G= GOD'S GIFT TO ME (Romans 3:24)

R= RECEIVED BY FAITH (Ephesians 2:8-9)

A= AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE (Romans 10:13)

C= COMES THROUGH ETERNITY (John 1:17)

E= EXTENDED THROUGH ETERNITY (Romans 6:23)

TODAY: EXPERIENCING FOR OURSELVES AND THEN OFFERING GOD'S FORGIVING GRACE TO OTHERS.

Forgiveness is outrageously costly.

Why should I forgive?

Because forgiveness is the only way to heal the hurt we never deserved.

How are we able to forgive others?

Because of the forgiveness we have received from God.

FORGIVENESS QUIZ:

A person should not be forgiven until he/she asks for it. T F

Forgiving includes minimizing the offense and the pain caused. T F

Forgiveness includes restoring trust and reuniting a relationship. T F

You haven't really forgiven until you've forgotten the offense. T F

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT:

1. Forgiveness is not conditional.

Forgiveness is an act of grace by the forgiver.

2. Forgiveness is not minimizing the seriousness of the offense.
3. Forgiveness is not resuming a relationship without changes.
4. Forgiveness is not forgetting what happened.

WHAT IS GENUINE FORGIVENESS?

1. Remembering how much I've been forgiven.

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

The more grace I have received from God the more gracious I should be toward others.

2. Relinquishing my right to get even.

Romans 12:19 (LB) ...never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it.

The alternative to forgiving is revenge.

3. Responding to evil with good.

Luke 6:27-28 (NIV) "...do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

We can respond like this only because we have experienced God's grace and love.

I Corinthians 13:5 (NIV) ...it [love] keeps no record of wrongs.

WHY OFFER GRACE TO OTHERS?

1. Because God is gracious to me.

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) You must make allowances for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

2. Because the alternative is bitterness.

Hebrews 12:15 (Ph) Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself, but can also poison the lives of many others.

3. Because God expects me to do it.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (you are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?