

Growing in Grace

Series: The Good News About Grace

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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 CHRIST (John 1:17)

E= EXTENDED THROUGH ETERNITY (Romans 6:23)

TODAY: HOW WE CAN MAKE SURE WE ARE GROWING IN GRACE.

Bruce Larson: "To me, the very heart of the nature of God is that He initiates change."

God gives us grace as a gift to keep us going and to bring about change in our lives.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV) You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Paul indicates we have a choice to make: progressive deterioration, or to be perpetually made new.

Colossians 3:9-10 (Mes) You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete.

STEPS TO GROWING IN GRACE:

1. PUT OFF THE OLD

Matthew 9:17 (NIV) "Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

2. PUT ON THE NEW

II Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

3. BE RENEWED IN YOUR MIND

Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of the world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

HOW DO WE TAKE THESE STEPS?

We must believe that God has the power to accomplish change.

TWO TREMENDOUS PROMISES GIVEN TO US:

Philippians 1:6 (NIV) ...he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:13 (LB) For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants.

God is always at work in our lives. He will not leave us unfinished or incomplete.

CONCLUSION:

GROWING IN GRACE INVOLVES:

- A. Discovering where we need to grow—being honest with ourselves.
- B. Being open to be changed—having a willingness.
- C. Asking God to give us the power—trusting God to bring about the change.

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?