

## What is "grace"?

It is not just something I am supposed to say before a meal or how a woman with "southern charm" handles herself. It is a gift. THE gift of Jesus and His redeeming blood; from God; not because I deserve it or can earn it. Just because He loved me and will unconditionally love me!

### Why does God provide it?

He has always loved me and had great plans for me to be in heaven with Him. Humbling to think about! (Psalm 139:13-16) and (Psalm 138:8) I must choose whether or not to follow the path toward that promise. He expects and requires heaven to be a perfect place for cleansed people. I cannot be "perfect" on my own but CAN be made clean again because of this grace. I mess up. A lot! He knows that and makes it possible anyhow.

**Romans 8:13(NIV)** *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,*

### Is it for me also?

I am loved by God. Regardless of how bad I am, regardless of how much I let Him down, regardless of how far I try to run away - it is for ME also.

**Romans 7:18(NIV)** *I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to*

*do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*

If Paul had that struggle I know I am not alone. I may not be as bad as some. I certainly am not as good as some. I want to be good but stuff happens and Satan wins a round in the fight. I choose to not give up but also know I cannot win in a fight against Satan. I know God has promised that in the end, if I stand on His side I will win! 2 pet 3:9

### How does this differ from judgment or mercy?

Judgment is what a judge would impose on me when found guilty. It is absolute and defined by the law. The Old Testament was a law and defined rewards and punishments. Mercy is what a judge can choose to use when I deserve the full punishment but he can give a lighter sentence. Jesus came to fulfill that law and provided us a different plan. He brought grace from God. Nothing I did or can do will earn it.

### What does it do for me?

**John 3:16-18(NIV)** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not*

*believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

**Titus 3:5-7(NIV)** *he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

When I read this I see clearly that God loved me so very much He sent Jesus and that through obedience to Him we are justified (made right) by the grace of God.

**Romans 3:21-26(NIV)** *But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and*

*the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

God is obviously merciful to me as a sinner. He is also a wise and just Judge. I deserve nothing but am promised everything as long as I follow Him!

**What if I mess up again? Will there still be grace for me?**

**1 John 1:7(NIV)** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

That makes me have hope! As long as I am trying every day to walk and follow Jesus and living in the patterns I find in the Bible then I can get forgiven all the time. What a relief!!!

Definitely a no-brainer to me. I MUST follow God's plan of grace because I want to go to heaven!

**I am ready to learn more.**

**This is what I need and want!**

**I still have these questions, however:**

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**We are here to help you!**

We would sincerely like the opportunity to talk with you more about this subject and share what God's word says about it. As Jesus said, **John 8:32(NIV)** " *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*"

This is presented with love by:

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We simply seek to share the message of love, hope, forgiveness and peace found through Jesus Christ.

**For more information please contact us:**

Killen Church of Christ

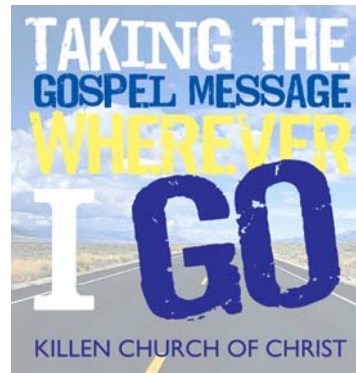
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Grace1 rbh 01/22/13

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