

WHAT IS GRACE?

by Sean Michael Lucas

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. What is your understanding of the concept of grace? Think deeper than a simplistic answer. (5-8)
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19; Titus 3:3; and 1 Corinthians 2:14. Analyze everything it says about the person who is “dead in trespasses and sins.” (6-10)
3. How much influence, or control, do you think the world, your flesh, and Satan have over people who are unsaved? (10-13)
4. How serious is God’s wrath? What makes Him so angry? (13-14)
5. All of this, so far, has been the bad news. Now for the Good News: Read Titus 2:11-14. What does grace do in our lives? (16-18)

6. The Catechism tells us our chief purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. What then is the chief end of God? (18-26)

7. Explain what Paul means when he says, “For the grace of God has appeared...” (Titus 2:11) (18-26)

8. Paul says we were “created in Christ Jesus for good works.” (Ephesians 2:10) What good works does he have in mind? (26-30)

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

APPLICATION

If your chief end is to reflect the glory of Christ in and through your life, then you need to examine carefully how you are living. To this end, go through all the commands in Ephesians 4:17—6:20. Pick out about 10 areas of your life: five where you are doing fairly well, and five in which you are struggling most. Rate each of them from 1-7. Next, make a plan how you, with the recognition of your dependence on the Holy Spirit to enable you to do this, can move up even one notch over the next year.

No matter how old you are in Christ, you need to measure how well you are growing in your Christian life. The above exercise will enable you to do just that.

Get started right away, and start watching, with joy, at all the Holy Spirit will be doing in your life to make you more like Jesus.

For Further Study

Grace Works! And Ways We Think it Doesn't, Douglas Bond. P&R, 2014.

Saved by Grace: The Glory of Salvation in Ephesians 2, Richard D. Phillips, 2009.

Find this and more at www.pcabookstore.com.