

POP QUIZ

1. Have you ever told a lie?

2. Have you ever stolen anything?

3. Have you ever hated anyone?

4. Have you ever misused God's Name?

5. Have you ever lusted?

6. Have you ever been jealous?

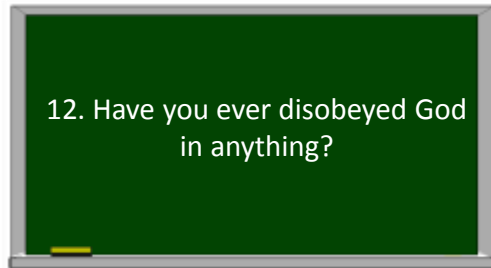
7. Have you ever done anything selfish?

8. Have you ever done anything unloving?

9. Have you ever wanted to get even with someone?

10. Do you love money or stuff?

11. Do you crave power or fame?



Depravity

- You do not measure up to God's standard
- There is nothing you can do about it
- You stand condemned before the righteous Judge of the universe

Depravity

- You are helpless, hopeless, destitute...
- You deserve hell.



Why Talk about Depravity?

- You cannot understand GRACE if you do not understand your DEPRAVITY!
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Why Talk about Depravity?

- You are a sinner
- Sin deserves punishment
- Justice demands punishment
- Mercy withholds punishment
- Grace imparts righteousness

Why Talk about Depravity?

- You cannot understand GRACE if you do not understand your DEPRAVITY!
 - Eph. 2:1-10
 - Rom. 3:9-26
 - Gal. 3:19-29

What is Grace?

- *Unmerited favor*
 - To be pleased with, and therefore to bless or show kindness toward

What is Grace?

- *Unmerited favor*
 - Given purely at the discretion of the giver
 - Example: Ezek. 16:1-14

Why Do We Need Grace?

- Before the Fall, man was *innocent*
- When Adam sinned, man was *guilty*
- When Christ died, man could be *justified*

Why Do We Need Grace?

- *Justified*
 - Declared *righteous* in the eyes of the law
 - You do nothing! - “being justified as a gift by His grace” (Rom. 3:24)

John Piper

- "...even though by nature we are rebels against God and have committed high treason and are worthy to be eternally court-martialed and hanged by the neck until dead,

John Piper

- "...nevertheless God has sacrificed his own Son and now declares amnesty free and clear to any who will lay down their arms of independence and come home to faith."

Donald Grey Barnhouse

God is righteousness
God demands righteousness
God provides righteousness

"If those three statements are understood, then the whole gospel will be understood."

God Provides Righteousness

- "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21)

God Provides Righteousness

- "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly." (Gal. 2:21)

God Provides Righteousness

- "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)

God Provides Righteousness

- Grace and Grits
- Grace gives us what we do not have in ourselves at no cost to us

God Provides Righteousness

- Grace sets biblical Christianity apart from every other religion
 - All man-made religions require some effort from man toward God
 - Grace shows us it is all of God!

Donald Grey Barnhouse

- “If you want it in the simplest terms, it is this: God wants you to believe His Word that He is satisfied with the death of Jesus Christ instead of your death.”

What Does Grace Do?

- Saves us: by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - Available to all
 - Given to the humble (1 Pet. 5:5)

What Does Grace Do?

- Preserves us: *we stand in grace; disproportionate to sin* (Rom. 5)
- Sustains us: it is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:7-10)
- Teaches us: live godly (Titus 2:11-14)

What Does Grace Do?

- Empowers us: labor in grace (1 Cor. 15:10)
- Equips us: spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:3)

So What?

- DON'T DO ANYTHING!
 - Is there any hint of self-effort?
 - Are you trying to 'pay God back'?

So What?

- Humble yourself – 2 Sam. 15:25-26
- Obey – Gen. 6:8; Eph. 2:8-10
 - Not *in order to* but *because of*

So What?

- "...so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God." (2 Cor. 4:15)
- Respond in worship and thanks!