

LOVE LIKE THAT

MAY 12, 2019

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

GRACE-FULL

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with Him and **learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us.** His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of Himself to us. **Love like that.**

Ephesians 5:1-2

"No man is poor who has a godly mother."

Abraham Lincoln

JUSTICE = _____ WHAT YOU DESERVE
MERCY = _____ GETTING WHAT YOU DO DESERVE
GRACE = GETTING WHAT YOU COULD NEVER _____
OR _____

"Grace is, by definition, unfair. It doesn't make sense. And that's the point. If you want to love like Jesus, you can't limit your love to people who deserve it."

Les Parrott

THE GRACE-GIVING OF _____

John 8:2-11

"I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us."

Anne Lamott

*"Anyone can find the dirt in someone. Be the one who finds the gold."
paraphrase of Proverbs 11:27*

GRACE = GOD'S UNMERITED FAVOR, AN UNDESERVED AND UNCONDITIONAL GIFT

Ephesians 2:8-9

1 John 4:9

WHAT KEEPS US FROM BEING GRACE-GIVERS... _____

Matthew 7:1-5

WHAT JESUS _____ ABOUT GIVING GRACE

Matthew 20:1-16

HOW TO BE A BETTER GRACE-GIVER... _____

Joshua 22

THREE STEPS TO BE MORE GRACE-FULL THIS COMING WEEK:

1. Determine to get “the rest of the story” before acting impulsively or judgmentally.
2. Talk with God about areas in your life where you react in judgment and not grace.
3. Make a list of three grace-filled actions you will implement this week.

Fill in the blanks: Getting, not, earn, deserve, Jesus, judgementalism, taught us, curiosity

HOW GRACE-FULL ARE YOU?

A brief self-inventory is provided for you below. Take a couple minutes to complete it now or do the same free inventory online at LoveLikeThatBook.com to see your results and receive a summary at the end of the series.

For each statement, put the number that best describes you.

Never(1) Rarely(3) Sometimes(5) Often(7) Very Often (10)

- ____ *I don't focus on having other people earn my respect – I just give it to them.*
- ____ *I stay completely clear of criticizing others and fault-finding.*
- ____ *Like Jesus, I separate the sin from the sinner.*
- ____ *I give love, respect and appreciation freely to people who don't deserve it.*
- ____ *People who know me well would describe me as a grace-giver.*
- ____ *I know God loves me unconditionally.*
- ____ *When I see someone acting in a way I don't like, I'm inclined to give them the benefit of the doubt until I better understand the situation.*
- ____ *I feel God's love in my life and know I receive it even when I don't deserve it.*
- ____ *I'm more inclined to have an open heart than an accusing finger.*
- ____ *I believe the best about people. Even if they've been bad, I want the best for them.*

_____ **TOTAL**

If you would like to read more in-depth about the 5 relationship secrets, you can purchase the book *Love Like That* by the #1 New York Times bestselling author and psychologist Dr. Les Parrott.



JOIN A LOVE LIKE THAT LIFE GROUP

Join a Life Group for this series. Each week, you will view a brief video from #1 New York Times bestselling author and psychologist Dr. Les Parrott and then engage in thought-provoking and relationship-improving discussion. Come to the Connect Center to find a group that's right for you!

LOVE LIKE THAT

STUDY GUIDE

This Study Guide is designed to help you take the message with you throughout the week with daily Scripture reading and questions for your personal reflection and application. It is also designed to help you continue the conversation with your family, friends, and Life Group.

DAY 1

Think about how often the word grace is used in the New Testament (or do a quick word study). Reflect on how central grace is to God's character and who He calls us to be.

How Grace-Full Are You?

If you haven't done so, take the self-inventory on the sermon outline or online at LoveLikeThatBook.com.

How do you feel about the results?
Make it a point to share your results with family, friends, or your Life Group.

DAY 2

Jesus is teaching in the temple classroom when the religious leaders brought in a woman caught in adultery.

Read John 7:53-8:11. Put yourself in the place of this woman. What do you think she expected to hear from Jesus? What impact do you think His words had on her? When is a time you especially needed grace? What was the cause of your need and who, if anyone, gave grace to you?

DAY 3

Read Matthew 7:1-5. What connection is Jesus making between the faults we notice in others and our own problems?

How judgemental have you been over the past week?

Grace-Full to a fault

Judgemental by reflex

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

(Note where you fall on this continuum when you were at your best and at your worst over the past seven days.)

What is an example of you at your worst?

Now give an example of you at your best.

What can you do this week to set your insecurities aside so that you can be more grace-full with those who may need it the most? Who is a particular person you want to focus on? When and where?

DAY 4

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How often do you lose sight of God's grace for you and fall into attempting to earn His love and favor?

Becoming a better grace-giver begins with being better at receiving and experiencing God's amazing grace for you! Where do you need to apply God's grace to your own life today?

DAY 5

In Mathew 19:27, Peter asks Jesus a straightforward question: "We left everything and followed you. What do we get out of it?" Jesus tells this parable in response to that question.

Read Matthew 20:8-15. How would you feel, if you were in Peter's shoes, about Jesus using this parable to respond to your question? How do you respond to this side of God? Are you glad or a little miffed because it doesn't seem fair?

APPLY

Who do you know that is in great need of God's grace right now? Who do you need to extend God's grace to this week?

CHALLENGE

What is one practical thing you can do to become less judgemental and more grace-full with the people you noted? Be as concrete and specific as you can be. Now go and do it!