## 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE GRACE OF GOD - (SERMON MP3)

Every conversion story points to grace. The apostle Paul wrote about his in (1Tim. 1:12). How does he describe himself prior to salvation? Notice the end of the verse, "the GRACE of our Lord overflowed for me..." What rescued him? What were you like prior to God's grace saving you? Where would you be if His grace hadn't reached out to you?



Some people wonder if God has enough grace for the depth of their depravity. They think things like, "I don't know if God could forgive someone like me. I've done some terrible things in my life." What comfort does (Rom. 5:20) offer us when we are deep in sin?



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•	How does (Eph. 2:7) describe the greatness of God's grace? The phrase describes the extraordinary, extreme, supreme, intensive degree of God's grace. It is great grace.		
•	God's grace is great because of what it does. According to (Eph. 2:5, 8) what does God's grace do?		
•	But this work of God is not without cost. God's grace is great because of what it demands. According to (Eph. 1:7; 2:13) what did God's grace demand?		
Neither morality, sincerity, or religiosity will invoke God's grace. It is a free gift (Eph. 2:8). It can't be earned, achieved, or deserved. It can only be humbly received. (1Pet. 5:5) "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."			
•	People who are proudly confident of their own uprightness have no need of God's grace. They think, "God, I don't need you because, frankly, I'm okay." That's what the Pharisee in (Luke 18:9-14) thought. Look up the reference and contrast the Pharisee with the other character mentioned. Then write out their distinct ends.		
•	In your present spiritual journey, are you operating on an "I'm okay" mentality? Are you functioning without a sense of need for God's grace? Explain your response.		
	wn thoughts connected to the following two points. Why are these important? What makes them hard to accept or implement? How do the your life personally? What would need to change in order to apply these to your life?		
•	God supplies grace to save (Romans 3:19-26).		
•	God supplies grace to sanctify (Titus 2:11-12).		

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** From John Piper...Picture a railroad track and think of it as righteousness. The paradigm of grace would be a railroad car attached to the engine of God by the clasp of faith. You would be placed on and pulled along the track of righteousness by the gracious work of God. In contrast to that, those who want to operate on a paradigm of works, pick up the track and use it like a ladder. They point it to heaven and try to climb the ladder to God on their own – more laws more rungs, more climbing.

## **DIGGING DEEPER** (FOR EXTRA PERSONAL STUDY)

Some people hate grace. It rubs them the wrong way. They feel like the rotten apples of society are too bad for grace. In their minds, it would unjustly erase the crimes and atrocities of those who are "truly sinful." I mean, can grace just save people like Hitler, Stalin, Saddam, Manson, Bundy, or bin Ladin? Could they just receive God's grace and be in heaven one day?

•	Compare the older brother in the story of (Luke 15:11-32) with the prophet in the story of (Jonah 3-4). Why did grace grate them so much? What's at the root of their anger? How did they see themselves and how did they see others?			
•	The prophet will preach, people will be saved, and he'll get mad. In (Jonah 4:1) it says, "It displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry." In exasperation he'll state, "I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Jonah 4:2)." Why did he respond that way to grace?			
•	The older brother would not join the celebration when his younger sibling returned home. In fact, the text says, "He was angry and refused to go in (Luke 15:28)." Why did he respond that way to grace?			
•	Is grace really a free pass in God's economy? Does sin go unpunished and evil go without justice? Does grace just sweep sin under the carpet? Is grace a valid license to live as you please. Look up (Isaiah 53:4-8; Rom. 3:23-26; 6:1-4; Titus 2:11-12) to help answer the questions.	PRAYER REQUESTS		
Some people hate grace because they think in and of itself it's too easy. They want to work for it. They want to make themselves worthy of it. They want to learn and grow so that they can merit it. They feel like something great can't just be given away. It can't be that simple.				
•	Read the story of Naaman in (2Kings 5), and write down some of the reasons why he wouldn't do the simple thing Elisha told him to do.			
•	According to (2Kings 5:13) what was at the heart of Naaman's refusal?			
on your p	OR THOUGHT: You can't make God love you any more or any less. Your relationship with Him is not based performance – it is based on the gracious work of Jesus on the cross. Are you more focused on your works, or more than you are on Christ's work and his sufficient sacrifice on the cross?			