
1. Defining Grace - why it is not just unmerited favour

1. Grace comes from the Greek word, *charis*. It is often translated as gift, and so therefore grace is a gift.
2. Grace is commonly defined as *unmerited favour*. Grace is unmerited favour because we have found that favour is something that initially is a free gift through being a son or daughter of God. Both favour and grace requires nurturing and growing which is not what reformed theology teaches us..
3. We will find it is so much more than unmerited favour.
4. A gift is a gift, regardless of whether it is merited or unmerited.

2. The difference between grace and favour¹

1. Grace is a gift that comes UPON us:

LUKE 2:40

**AND THE CHILD GREW AND BECAME STRONG IN SPIRIT, FILLED WITH WISDOM;
AND THE GRACE OF GOD WAS UPON HIM.**

As we have already seen grace is a free gift that is simply give

2. Favour is initially a gift of being a son or daughter, and then grows on the basis of decisions made:

LUKE 2:52

AND JESUS INCREASED IN WISDOM AND STATURE, AND IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MEN.

3. Grace is Active²

1. Grace can strengthen us

HEBREWS 13:9

IT IS GOOD FOR OUR HEARTS TO BE STRENGTHENED BY GRACE,

2. So grace can strengthen us, therefore it is a gift that benefits the recipient.
3. Remember that grace is the Greek word *charis*. The word *charis* refers to a gift that **actively** benefits the recipient
4. When God gives grace to someone there is an impartation that occurs. Favour is not an impartation.

¹ Please refer Favour 101: Favour with God, and Favour 102: Favour with man

² Much of this teaching is derived from the excellent book "Systematic Theology for the New Apostolic Reformation 2nd Edition" by Dr Harold R Eberle. P549-563 "Sola Gratia" except that I have defined favour and grace differently from Dr Eberle

4. Grace Provides All Sufficiency and Abundancy for every Good Work

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUT TOWARD YOU, THAT YOU, ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS, MAY HAVE AN ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

Grace provides everything a person needs to complete what God has for that person to do

5. Grace Works Powerfully in You, therefore Grace is NOT Passive!

1. Grace is not passive, it is active

ACTS 4:33

WITH GREAT POWER THE APOSTLES CONTINUED TO TESTIFY TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS. AND GOD'S GRACE WAS SO POWERFULLY AT WORK IN THEM ALL

Here we see that grace "works" powerfully!

2. Then in 2 Cor 12:9 we find that grace empowers you in weakness

AND HE SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER (DYNAMIS) IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." THEREFORE MOST GLADLY I WILL RATHER BOAST IN MY INFIRMITIES, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME.

James Ryle's definition of grace is worth noting³:

GRACE IS THE EMPOWERING PRESENCE OF GOD ENABLING YOU TO BE WHO GOD CREATED YOU TO BE, AND TO DO WHAT HE HAS CALLED YOU TO DO -- RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.

6. Grace imparts to others

EPHESIANS 4:29

LET NO CORRUPT WORD PROCEED OUT OF YOUR MOUTH, BUT WHAT IS GOOD FOR NECESSARY EDIFICATION, THAT IT MAY IMPART GRACE TO THE HEARERS.

1. So grace is an impartation that gives, and it has an effect.
2. Impartation of grace can come from God or man, it can be as simple as a word of encouragement or a gift of money (See context of 2 Corinthians 9:8).

So a broader definition would simply be:⁴

AN IMPARTATION THAT BENEFITS THE RECIPIENT

But in some respects this does not reflect the cost that Jesus paid on the cross, so I would offer this as a definition, remembering that you carry the very presence of God:

³ <https://www.identitynetwork.net/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=71830>

⁴ Dr H Eberle, Systematic Theology for the new Apostolic Reformation 2nd Ed p555

Author:

Dr Neville van Eerten

Grace 101 -
Defining What Grace Is



GRACE IS THE EMPOWERING PRESENCE OF GOD, EITHER DIRECTLY IMPARTING TO A PERSON FROM GOD, OR THROUGH A PERSON IMPARTING UPON OTHERS, WHICH ESTABLISHES AND GROWS THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND REVEALS THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF GOD.