

# GRACE GONE WILD!

GETTING A GRIP ON GOD'S AMAZING GIFT

"GOOD GRACE CHURCHES"

HEBREWS 10:23-25

JANUARY 3, 2021



**Introduction:** Today and next week we are going to discover how a proper understanding of grace should affect our attitude and actions toward the local church. Specifically, we are going to contrast “bad grace” and “good grace” in four specific areas related to church life.

## I. **Regarding Membership**

Bad grace says, “I don’t need to join a church.”

Good grace says, “God has provided a church for me to join.”

### **Four Benefits The Local Church Provides**

#### **A. Instruction for Our Spiritual Growth** (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Ephesians 4:11-12 <sup>11</sup> “He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”

1 Timothy 3:2 “An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.”

1 Timothy 5:17 “The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.”

#### **B. Encouragement When We Become Discouraged** (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

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Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 <sup>9</sup> “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. <sup>10</sup> For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.”

Ecclesiastes 4:12 “If one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.”

## C. **Accountability When We Wander** (Hebrews 13:17)

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

## D. **A More Powerful Witness to the World** (Philippians 2:15)

1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:14-22 <sup>14</sup> “For the body is not one member, but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,’ it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,’ it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’; or again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.”

1 Corinthians 12:12, 21 <sup>12</sup> “For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’; or again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’”

Philippians 2:15 “So that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.”

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## II. Regarding Attendance

Bad grace says, "I can miss church as often as I want."

Good grace says, "I should attend church as frequently as I can."

### A. Our Responsibility Toward Others (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Hebrews 10:23-25 <sup>23</sup> "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; <sup>24</sup> and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

### B. Our Responsibility Toward Ourselves (Galatians 4:1-11)

Conclusion