

GRACE GONE WILD!

GETTING A GRIP ON GOD'S AMAZING GIFT

"GOOD GRACE RELATIONSHIPS"

ROMANS 12:18

DECEMBER 13, 2020



Introduction: Today we are going to discover how a proper understanding about grace affects our relationships to those who hurt us. When does grace demand that I forgive people who wrong me and common sense require that I avoid them?

I. Good Grace Affirms The Necessity Of Forgiveness
(Matthew 6:14-15; Ephesians 4:32)

Matthew 6:14-15 ¹⁴ “For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”

Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

II. Good Grace Recognizes That Forgiveness Does Not Erase The Consequences Of Wrongs (Romans 12:17-21; Psalm 37:28)

Acts 7:60 “Then falling on his knees, he [Stephen] cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them!’ Having said this, he fell asleep.”

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A. The Definition of Vengeance (Romans 12:17-21)

Definition of Vengeance: The desire to make others suffer for the wrongs they have committed against us.

Romans 12:17-21 ¹⁷“Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. ¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,’ says the Lord. ²⁰ ‘BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.’ ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

B. The Definition of Justice (Psalm 37:28)

Definition of Justice: The payment that God (or others) might seek from our offender.

Psalm 37:28 “For the LORD loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.”

III. Good Grace Understands That While Forgiveness Can Be Granted, Reconciliation Must Be Earned (Amos 3:3)

Mark 11:25-26 ²⁵ “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. ²⁶ But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.”

Romans 12:18 “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”

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A. Reconciliation Demands Repentance (Amos 3:3)

Amos 3:3 “Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?”

B. Reconciliation Demands Restitution (Luke 19:8-9)

Luke 19:8-9 ⁸ “Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.’ ⁹ And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.’”

C. Reconciliation Demands Rebuilding Trust (Psalm 133:1)

Psalm 133:1 “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” (ESV)

Conclusion