

Amazing Grace -- Part 1
What Is So Amazing About Grace?
Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:24, 11:6
1 Corinthians 15:10

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Word Definition: Grace *is* the unmerited, undeserved, unearned, kindness and favor of God. What grace *does* is to impart divine enablement.

AMONG THE WORDS THAT HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE GRACE OF GOD ARE THESE THREE:

I. Unmerited

Ephesians 2:8-9
(NKJV - emphasis added)

- (8) For *by grace* you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
- (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Isaiah 64:6 -- We are all infected and impure with sin. *When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.* Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind. (NLT - emphasis added)

1 Peter 4:8 -- And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "*love will cover a multitude of sins.*" (NKJV - emphasis added)

II. Undeserved

Romans 3:24 -- being justified freely (*undeservedly*) *by His grace* through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (NKJV - clarity and emphasis added)

Word Study: The word for grace in the Greek is the word *charis*. It means "the unmerited favor of God." However, the same word was used in common secular Greek before it was used in scripture. In cultural usage it referred to a benevolent gift given by a superior (in wealth or goods) to an inferior (in wealth or goods). That transaction was called grace (Gr.: *charis*)

In cultural Greek, the giving of a benevolent gift by a superior to an inferior required three people: a giver (patron), a recipient (client) and someone who would bring the patron and the client together: a broker. The broker would be the one who would actually pay for the merchandise (gift). The patron provided it, the client received it, but the broker paid for it. It is a great illustration of Jesus, our Broker, who brought us together with the Father so that the gift of the payment of our debt of sin could be made in full.

III. Unearned

Romans 11:6 -- And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. (NKJV)

Word Definition: From the Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible: "Grace is the dimension of divine activity that enables God to confront human indifference and rebellion with an inexhaustible capacity to forgive and to bless."

1 Corinthians 15:10 -- But whatever I am now it is all because God poured out such kindness and grace upon me—and not without results: for I have worked harder than all the other apostles, yet actually I wasn't doing it, but God working in me, to bless me. (TLB)