



GRACE

Life-Link Study #27

INTRODUCTION

Some would call it, “God’s unmerited favour,” the all-about-God website refers to Grace as “God moving heaven and earth to save sinners who could not lift a finger to save themselves.” The Message Bible calls it “Aggressive Forgiveness.” What an amazing way to define Grace. Grace is way broader than what we can grasp in our little tiny imagination. Grace is a way of describing God’s continuous relationship with our world.

“Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right...All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn’t, and doesn’t, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace. When it’s sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that’s the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.” (Rom. 5:18-19, 21 MSG)

Amazing Grace: The true story:

Amazing Grace was written by an Englishman who in the early part of his life was an outspoken atheist, libertine, and slave trader. John Newton was born in London in 1725, the son of a Puritan mother and a stern ship commander father who took him to sea when he was 11 (“I am persuaded that he loved me but he seemed not willing that I should know it,” he later wrote).

By 1745, Newton was enlisted in the slave trade, running captured slaves from Africa to, ironically, Charleston, S.C. After he rode out a storm at sea in 1748, he found his faith. He was ordained an Anglican priest in 1764 and became an important voice in the English abolitionist movement. At that time he wrote the autobiographical Amazing Grace, along with 280 other hymns.

Very much like the story of Saul who made it his passion and goal to persecute Christians, until he met with Jesus on the road to Damascus. He later became Paul one of the greatest Apostles that ever lived. Could he be forgiven? Yes he was, thanks be to God. (Acts 22:4 – 10)

Q: Discuss the concept and impact of ‘Aggressive Forgiveness’.

Q: Would you forgive John Newton, Paul or even Judas Iscariot if you were given the power to make the decision?

Q: Describe how you have experienced grace in your life.

Something to think about - Romans 6:1

“So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we’ve left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn’t you realize we packed up and left there for good?”

Change your mindset; embrace Grace, the Grace of God.

Prayer:

Thank you Lord God for the gift of Grace. I accept it with all my heart and seek to take advantage of it to bear upon my world everyday.