

Characteristics of a Grace Believer / Grace Church

There is an array of misinformation about the meaning of God's grace. What does it mean to be a 'grace-person', or a 'grace-church'? Here are some characteristics:

1 - The finished/completed work of Jesus Christ is in focus

What we need for 'life' and 'godliness' has been provided by the death and resurrection of Christ. Our response is to "open" our eyes to see the riches of the inheritance we have. We have been made righteous, sanctified, forever forgiven, consecrated, redeemed, are His sons and daughters, royal priests, temples of His Holy Spirit, New Creations etc. etc. [*Heb. 10:10 AMP, Heb. 10:14 AMP*]

We have been saved – given wellbeing in all things to reign in life now [*Rom. 5:17 AMP*]

2 – Victory over sin and sin consciousness

When we focus on our sins, sin gets a stronger hold. But when our attention is on Christ and His forgiveness and righteousness given to us, sin's power is broken [*Rom. 6:14 AMP, Heb. 10:2 AMP*].

3 – Believers are placed into a position of High Favour

We are accepted in the Beloved. This means each believer is honoured and placed into high favour [*Eph. 1:6 AMP*]

4 – The cross divides the Old and New Covenants

Some suggest that grace makes 'light' of sin, but the opposite is true. Sin is so powerful that no effort, discipline or struggle can defeat it. Our only hope is in believing that Jesus took all our sins - past, present and future - "once for all". Victory over sin happens by yielding to the indwelling Christ. The good news is that our sins cannot stop God's grace, but grace stops sin.

5 – Total different understanding of the word 'new'

As used in the New Covenant - new man, new creation, new nature, new wine, new wineskins etc. [*e.g. 2 Cor. 5:17 AMP*] In these scriptures the word new is the Greek word *kainos* (*kahee-nos*) which means different in form, function, character and quality.

6 - True repentance is having a change of mindset

From the Law/Sin and Self- Effort into a mindset of true 'Rest in Christ'. Resting in the knowledge that Jesus has gone before and already done the work [*Heb. 4:3 AMP, Eph. 2:10 AMP*] Resting for the grace believer is a position of total trust.

7 – Hasten into the REST that Jesus has won for them

The original Greek word is not 'labour' but "*spoudazo*" (*spoo-dad'-zo*) which means 'run' into REST [*Heb. 4:11 AMP*].

8 – Grace believers don't mix the old and new covenants.

We don't mix the old and new covenants [*Gal. 4:30-31 AMP*]. Grace believers understand the allegory of the two mountains, two covenants, two wives, two sons [*Gal. 4:24 AMP*].

9 – The New Covenant is the Gospel of unmerited favour (GRACE)

[*Acts 20:24 AMP*]

10 – If a believer falls from Grace, nullifies grace

If a believer falls from Grace, nullifies grace, they are not judged by the church, but are reminded of their new identity in Christ [*Rom. 6:1-4 AMP, Gal. 2:21 AMP, Gal. 5:4 AMP*]. They are restored to right believing which brings right living.

11 – God has forgiven the sin of the world

The gift of forgiveness has been won for all, **for all time**, but it is to be received individually [1 Jn. 2:2 KJV, John 3:16-17 AMP]

12 – Preaching Jesus, instead of lessons of behaviour modification bring real results

The preachers who lived before the cross focused on the sins of the people. Those after the cross, like Paul, Philip and John, preached the finished work of Jesus. Morality is important, but good morals do not come from lessons of morality but from Christ's power in us. Corinth was a particularly immoral city in ancient times. No wonder Paul preached nothing except Jesus Christ crucified [1 Cor. 2:2 AMP].

13 – Grace and Faith are a dynamic duo

As we understand Christ's finished work on the cross (grace) we store it in our hearts and minds and speak it forth (confess out freely our faith) and His grace is manifested and our salvation is confirmed [Rom. 10:10 AMP].

14 – Jesus came to bring us SALVATION (Gk. 'soteria')

Salvation means wellbeing/wholeness **in all areas of our lives** [Jn. 10:10 AMP].

15 – Grace turns legalism into life (water into wine)

e.g. "I used to have to go to church but now I want to..."
My "have to's" become "want to's" [Heb. 10:16 KJV]

16 – As a Grace believer we begin to understand just how much God loves us

We find out that He deeply loves us, we are His beloved. Under Law it was all about how much we must love Him. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts which allows us to love one another [Rom. 5:5 AMP, 1 Jn. 4:11 AMP].

17 – Grace believers 'forgive one another' not 'judge one another'

[Eph. 4:3 AMP, Eph. 4:32 AMP]

18 – God's grace values ALL people

A Grace church welcomes all peoples home to God's grace through Jesus.
[Lk. 15, the parable of the prodigal sons AMP]

19 – The Great Commission is the sharing of the Gospel of Grace and was given to the New Testament Churches

[Mk. 16:15 AMP] The place and function of the Holy Spirit is to direct (prompt) and empower us as we preach the New Covenant of Grace.

20 – Grace believers have a new understanding of the communion bread and wine

They understand that the partaking of the Lord's body brings health, healing and wholeness. The blood reminds them they have been forever forgiven and the bread reminds them they were healed at the cross [Col. 1:14 AMP, Eph. 1:7 AMP, Isa. 53:5 AMP, 1 Cor. 11 AMP]

21 – Jesus fulfilled the Law, caused it to cease and made it obsolete and to be dispensed with altogether

[Rom. 10:4 AMP, Heb.8:13 AMP]



"2016 will be a year of ABUNDANCE (Jn. 10:10). Join with me to be a grace believer in a grace church this year"

Ps Percy Campbell,