

Common Grace

Introduction

- Today we begin a new series on the grace of God!
- Many Christians think that the grace of God is only associated with the New Testament and believers after the birth of Christ.
- The grace of God was essential for the continued existence of humanity after the creation & sin of Adam & Eve.
- Today we will consider the grace of God that is available to all people.

I. Definition of Common Grace

A. Consequences of sin

The consequence of sin (disobedience to God) has always been death (Gen. 2:16-17; Rom. 6:23). The holy demands of justice make no exceptions in God's law.

B. Delayed consequences

God does not give immediate & full justice to people for every act of sin. God also continues to provide temporary blessings to people who disobey Him. "Common grace is the grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessings that are not a part of salvation." – W. Grudem.

"Common" means available to all people, not just believers.

II. Examples of Common Grace

A. Physical existence

Unbelievers continue to exist & live because of God's common grace toward them (Ac. 17:28). God gives life to people who do not know or even acknowledge Him.

B. Physical provisions

God provides the basis physical needs of all people (Mt. 5:45b; Ac. 14:16-17). God brings blessings to unbelievers because of their influence on believers (Gen. 39:5).

C. Intellectual & creative capabilities

The mind of unbelievers is under the control & influence of the devil (Jn. 8:44; Rom. 8:7). They do not have the mind of Christ, yet God gives unbelievers amazing intellectual abilities in science, medicine, law, music, art, etc.

D. Moral restraints

Unbelievers are slaves of sin (Rom. 6:17a, 20). Yet God restrains unbelievers from absolute depravity & abject immorality – co-existence, procreation, self-government; some form of local, national & international peace, etc.

III. Reasons for Common Grace

A. God's goodness & mercy is revealed

As God allows sinners to exist, provides their needs & delays holy justice, his goodness & mercy is revealed to humanity (Ps. 145:15-16). God is good & merciful to the most undeserving sinners (Lk. 6:35g).

B. God's justice is revealed

Because of God's patience & goodness to sinners that continue to reject Him, His righteous judgment is clearly justified (Rom 2:5). Holy or righteous judgment is essential to establish God as the Righteous Judge (Ps. 96:13b).

C. Redemption is accomplished

*God extends common grace and delays judgment so that the elect may be born & kept until the day of their salvation. Sinners have a vital role in God's plan for redemption – parents, employers, educators, farmers, police, politicians, military, scientists, etc. (Pr. 16:4). **Everyone & everything is an available resource in God's plan of redemption!***

ILL: Joseph was hated by brothers, sold as slave in Egypt, faithful servant in Potiphar's house, prison, promoted to Minister of Food. "The Lord was with Joseph..." (Gen. 39:2a) & God provided for multitudes of Egyptians who never acknowledged or thanked Him.
APPL: The same is true today. God is with believers all around the world – providing, protecting, delivering, etc. But He is also providing for multitudes around the world that never acknowledge, thank or even consider God for their blessings = Common Grace!

CONCLUSION

Therefore my beloved brothers & sisters when you think of God's common grace (the goodness of God ungrateful & evil people), Jesus says this should motivate us "love your enemies, and do good, and lend expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful even as your Father is merciful." In other words, believers should **imitate God in being kind & merciful** to ungrateful & evil people. For the kindness of God is intended to lead people to repentance.

If you are not a Christian, you need to think about the ways God has been good to you – food, clothes, shelter, income, transportation, health, etc. Consider God's patience with you; you have not been punished for your sins. But do not presume that God will continue to wait when He has shown you the way... Jesus is the way... But you must believe...

SUBJECT: [Common Grace](#)

TEXT: [Psalm 145:15-16](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [April 22, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [992](#)

FILE LOCATION: [BX4](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)