

Common Grace – Part 2

Introduction and Review

- “Common grace is the grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessings that are not a part of salvation.” – Wayne Grudem. “Common” means available to all people.
- Examples of common grace: physical existence, physical provisions, intellectual & creative capabilities & moral restraints.
- Reasons for common grace: God’s goodness & mercy is revealed, God’s justice is revealed, and Redemption is accomplished.

I. Fundamental Principles of the Grace of God

A. God has an eternal plan

God has eternally planned all of human history (Eph. 1:11b; 3:11). Nothing & no one is outside of God’s eternal plan – He is the Omniscient One!

B. God is working out His eternal plan

All events and circumstances are a part of God’s eternal plan for human history (Is. 46:9b-11). He providentially rules over all human history.

C. Grace is essential for His eternal plan

Grace enables God to confront human indifference & rebellion with His capacity to forgive & bless. Grace enables God to respond with undeserved & unmerited blessings.

II. Fundamental Distinctions of the Grace of God

A. Common Grace

This is God’s favor & blessings toward unbelievers & believers. God provides the necessities of life & many other blessings to both unbelievers & believers (Mt. 5:45b). God delays final judgment for sins for both unbelievers & believers.

B. Special Grace

This is God’s special favor & blessings reserved for the elect & believers. This is the fulfillment of promises that are reserved for believers only (Rom. 8:28). Special or saving grace is always effective, removes the guilt & penalty of sin,

changes the sinner inwardly & leads to sanctification (Eph. 2:8-9).

III. Fundamental Operations of the Grace of God

Common grace & special grace co-exist & operate together in many venues of life: [\[believers & unbelievers function together\]](#)

- The family (spouses, children, close & distant relatives, etc.)
- Employment (medicine, law, science, manufacturing, construction, engineering, sports, etc.)
- Government (local, national, international)
- Education (pre-college, undergraduate, graduate, R&D, etc.)
- Fine Arts (various genres of music, paints, sculptures, etc.)
- Church (mercy effort, benevolence, ministry facility, worship services, etc. – Judas, Mt. 7:21-23; Ac. 20:29-30; 1Co. 11:19)

APPL: God says, “My grace is sufficient...” (2Co. 12:9). Believers have been given special grace to live among unbelievers who only have common grace. Because God has ordained for believers to be in this world living among unbelievers, then believers must learn to respond properly. Jesus says that we must learn to **love & pray for** our enemies who are living by common grace. Those of us with special grace from God have the special ability to love, pray for, forgive, show mercy & be kind to those who only have common grace to live by. “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required...” (Lk. 12:48).

CONCLUSION

Therefore my beloved brothers & sisters we are recipients of both God's common grace & His special grace. We are well acquainted with God's special favor & blessings that are reserved for His children. We are blessed to be in Christ, in the kingdom of God, in the family of God. And we will be in the will of God if we **love & pray** for our enemies as we trust God to bring even some of our enemies to true repentance & faith in Jesus Christ for salvation!

If you are not a Christian, you need to consider 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 judged & 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 – Part 2](#)

TEXT: [Matthew 5:44-45](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [April 29, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [993](#)

FILE LOCATION: [BX4](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)