

Grace and Peace

Introduction and Review

- Grace (χάρις) also means thanksgiving & must come from the heart of the believer (Col. 3:16).
- The believer should thank God for gospel privileges to serve Christ in ministry (1Tim. 1:12).
- The believer should thank God for deliverance from slavery to sin, the flesh & the fear of death (Rom. 6:17; 7:25; 1Co. 15:57).
- The believer should thank God for physical provisions – food, finances & people to help in ministry (1Co. 10:30; 2Co. 9:15; 8:16).
- The believer should thank God for any level of success in evangelistic ministry (2Co. 2:14).

I. Grace and Peace Defined

A. Grace

Grace was the typical Greek cultural greeting or salutation. Grace (χάρις) in this context means unmerited & undeserved favor from God that results in salvation.

B. Peace

*Peace was the typical Hebrew cultural greeting/salutation. Peace (εἰρήνη) in this context means freedom from anxiety & inner turmoil; given at salvation & maintained through prayer (Rom. 5:1-5; Phil. 4:6-7). **Peace w/God & people!***

C. Grace and peace

Grace & peace is to be experienced collectively as a church, not simply individually by each believer. Grace & peace is to be experienced in spite of weakness & failures in believers individually or in the church collectively.

APPL: “Grace & peace to you” was a desire for God’s spiritual blessings to be experienced by these churches – JOY (Phil. 4:4).

II. Grace and Peace Experienced

A. Racial & doctrinal (Rom. 1:7; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phlm. 3)

Jews & Gentiles were learning to worship & serve Christ together – racial & social tension. Many doctrinal problems were hindrances: legalism, Judaism, heathenism/idolatry & classism.

B. Doctrinal (Col. 1:2; Th. 1:2; Tim. 1:2; 2Jn. 3)

False teaching & doctrinal error plagued other churches: legalism, mysticism, asceticism, flawed eschatology, myths, hypocrisy, arrogance, greed & heresy.

C. Suffering & conflict (Phlp. 1:2; Pe. 1:2; Rev. 1:4)

There were quarrels & conflicts between members within many churches. Many churches also endured overt suffering & persecution – neighbors, employers, government & religious institutions.

D. Immaturity & worldliness (1Co. 1:3)

The church at Corinth was plagued with multiple problems: factions, sexual immorality, unbiblical lawsuits, unbiblical divorce, idolatry, drunkenness, competition & massive confusion in worship.

How can churches with these kinds of problems possibly experience grace & peace?

APPL: Certain realities are essential to have grace & peace collectively in a church. The work of **grace** must take place before there can be **peace** in a church. Church members must be saved or born again (Eph. 2:8-9), humble (Jas. 4:6), gracious listeners (Jas. 1:19), speak with grace (Col. 4:6), be thankful & give God thanks (1Co. 15:57), serve Christ & His people in humility (Phil. 2:3-5), willingly accept the thorn in your life (2Co. 12:9-10), develop & maintain a godly prayer life (Phil. 4:6-7).

CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters in Christ, this is the way of peace; this is the way to peace. Grace and peace function together; they are interrelated & interdependent. You cannot have peace with God or with people without beginning with grace. God intends for us to experience grace and peace together. We must not be satisfied just to experience this great blessing individually, while other church members limp along, struggle & fall behind. We must love each other; help, exhort, encourage, reprove, correct, forgive, teach, share, etc. Because we are one body with one hope, Lord, future, home & we want every member to experience this grace & peace in fullness!

And if you are not a Christian, this peace is available to you also. But you have to begin with this grace that I have already discussed – you must be born again; you must be saved by grace; you must believe in Jesus...

SUBJECT: [Grace and Peace](#)

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