

GRACE IMMERSION

WEEK 1

Rediscovering Grace

GRACE IN THE GOSPELS
OCTOBER 2 & 3, 2010 • RENÉ SCHLAEFFER

Do any of these statements describe you?

"I have an over-hanging sense of guilt and condemnation. I feel like I should do more, could do more, and yet I never do enough."

"I have a high level of anxiety and low self-esteem..."

"I fear that if I make the wrong choices God will be angry. I'm never at peace for long. I'm always afraid of making mistakes."

"I'm trying so hard to live the Christian life but it doesn't seem to work — and I'm so tired."

"I feel drawn to God but I've been burned by religion in my past. I'm afraid faith will turn into a list of rules I can't keep up with."

"Christians seem so judgmental. Is that what they're all about? I'm drawn to God but don't want to be like that."

"I'm afraid my mistakes have caused God to give up on me. Sometimes I want to come home to Him but I'm not sure I'm still welcome."

If you identify with any of these people, it's time to rediscover grace!

For the law was given through Moses; **grace** and **truth** came through Jesus Christ. JOHN 1:17 [NIV]

Of Christ's 55 parables, the majority are about grace!
Let's focus on one: Luke 15:11–32

Luke 15:11–32

Now the **tax collectors and “sinners”** were all gathering around to hear him. But the **Pharisees and the teachers of the law** muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable... LUKE 15:1–3

What I learn about grace from three characters:

1. The father: _____

• He _____

“...while he was **still a long way off**, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; **he ran to his son**, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” LUKE 15:20

• He _____ though I’m _____

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am **no longer worthy** to be called your son; make me like one of your **hired men**.”

LUKE 15:18–19

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet... **Let’s have a feast and celebrate**.’” LUKE 15:22

2. The rebel: _____

The road home...

• Come _____

“When he came to his senses...” LUKE 15:17

• Come _____

“Father, I have sinned...” LUKE 15:21

• Come _____

3. The older brother: _____

“Look! All these years I’ve been **slaving** for you and **never disobeyed** your **orders**. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.” LUKE 15:29

“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are **always with me**, and **everything I have is yours**.’” LUKE 15:31

Notice the similarity between the rebel son and the older son:

• **Rebellious son:** “...make me like one of your **hired men**...”

• **Older son:** “All these years I’ve been **slaving** for you...”

Are you living like a servant or a son?

SERVANT

Accepted based on what he does

Always worried his master will be displeased

Must prove his worth by work

Performance-based relationship

SON

Accepted based on whose he is

Secure in the love of his father

Knows nothing can change status

Love-based relationship

Chart modified from David Seamands, Healing Grace

“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’ So you are **no longer a slave, but a son**; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.” GALATIANS 4:5–7

A prayer of grace:

“Father, dear Father, I am your child, and I’m going to live and feel like one!”

The big idea:

God _____ me to _____ His grace!

“...the LORD **longs** to be **gracious** to you...” ISAIAH 30:18

3 outstanding outreach opportunities
This Fall

- **Oct 16: World’s Biggest Garage Sale**
Details at table outside
- **Oct 23: Serve the Bay**
Formerly ShareFest — details soon!
- **Nov 14: Second Harvest Food Drive**
Start bringing food Oct 31!

Daily Meditations

For daily readings tied into this weekend’s message, please pick up a Grace Immersion book in the lobby, or go online to www.GraceImmersion.com



“My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.”

LUKE 15:31 (NIV)