

The Full Measure of Grace
1 Corinthians 1:4-9

I. Intro to 1 Corinthians (so far)

A. Sermons

1. Common Question: (Overview)

- a. Theme: Relationships
- b. Common Question: How is a Christian to relate to everything else in His life now that they are following Jesus?

2. Common Condition: (1:1-2)

- a. The divine calling God places on every redeemed life is the basis for every instruction Paul offers in this letter
- b. The reason you should listen, learn, take to heart, and practice what the Holy Spirit teaches in this book is because of the call to faith and faithfulness that God Himself has placed on your life

3. Common provision: Grace (1:3,4-9)

- a. Extended as a greeting
 - (1) **1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV)** ³ *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - (2) Paul changes the standard cultural greeting to reflect his conviction that every mercy we receive comes from God
 - (a) Grace is not something external that God exchanges for loyalty but is, in fact, His personal, presence.
 - (b) God gives Himself and that is grace!
- b. Extended by God as a gift

4. Next week: Common Understanding (1:10)

5. Common goal

- a. Paul builds his call to unity on the foundation of what genuine Christians have in common.
- b. From the very outset of this letter Paul blows away the smoke screens the devil uses to isolate us from one another and from Christ to show us that our unity is based on what, through Christ, we have in common.

B. The Common Provision of Divine Grace

1. Definition: What is grace?

- a. Forget G.R.A.C.E. acronym
 - (1) (God's Riches at Christ's Expense)
 - (2) Too much like a banker entering a vault to give you a loan.
 - (a) Checking account under my sovereign control
 - (b) I can give you what I possess without giving you anything of what I am
- b. GRACE = God, in the present, expressing Himself in your heart, life, will, mind, and circumstances.
- c. God showing up in your life for His glory and your joy!

2. Three Aspects of the Grace God Provides All Believers

a. Divine Grace

- (1) **1 Corinthians 1:4 (ESV)** *⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,*
 - (a) Given You
 - i) **Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)** *⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
 - (b) In Christ Jesus
 - i) Jesus came into the world to save sinners from the just and righteous wrath of God
 - ii) All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; there is none righteous, no, not one
 - iii) Jesus lived before God without sin and therefore did not deserve death
 - a) The wages of sin is death
 - b) But if you don't sin, you don't get paid in death, instead you deserve life
 - iv) Jesus took the death we deserve to satisfy the demands of divine justice;
 - a) he gave his life for you
 - b) So that God could freely give His life to you
 - (c) And the only thing you can do in relation to grace is receive it by faith.
- (2) Grace comes from God, is given not earned, and is available to you on account of Jesus.

b. Enriching Grace

- (1) **1 Corinthians 1:5-7 (ESV)** *⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- (2) Enriching in every way
 - (a) In all speech and all knowledge
 - (b) Not lacking any spiritual gift
- (3) On account of grace, there is nothing Cornerstone lacks to fulfill our mission to fill the earth with the knowledge other glory of the Lord
 - (a) It is not a question of whether we have the grace we need
 - (b) It is a question of how we embrace and apply the

grace we have

- (4) God has given Himself freely to each of us who believe, we need to understand what He has given and actively live out the grace we has given us

c. Preserving Grace

- (1) **1 Corinthians 1:8-9 (ESV)** ⁸ *who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ⁹ *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- (2) You have not yet arrived and you need Christ to get there.
- (a) Each of us, as long as we live and breathe, have a purpose to fulfil in Christ as recipients of God's grace
- (b) None of us, as long as we live and breathe, can claim to have reached the point where our mission to bring glory to God is complete
- (c) God's grace sustains us to the end of the race

II. What will you do with the grace God makes available in Christ?

A. Some Choices

1. Remain rebellious
2. Remain indifferent
3. Accept forgiveness
4. Advance in maturity

B. This is the moment to choose

1. Grace is available now, while we live
2. Judgment replaces grace when life is over