

AMAZING GRACE

John 1:14

Christianity cannot possibly be understood apart from a clear picture and an adequate grasp of the grace of God. The doctrine of grace distinguishes Christianity from all religions and cults in the world.

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Hebrews 2:9 The grace of God is many times described through many stories of O. T. heroes and God's mercy toward Israel. However, the highest, most defined picture of the grace of God is epitomized through the gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

Grace – John 3:16; Romans 5:8; II Corinthians 5:21 God's love in action towards men and women who merit the opposite of love. God moving heaven and earth to save lost sinners who could never save themselves. God sending His Son to suffer for our sins, shed every drop of His precious blood in order for sinners to have a chance to be saved.

Romans 9:14-15 Grace comes from God and He alone (sovereignty), however, some will say that predestination is God choosing (sovereignty) some and not others.

Romans 12:3; I Timothy 2:3-4; Titus 2:11; II Peter 3:9 God makes it clear in that every person receives His long suffering, a measure of faith and the grace of God in order to believe unto salvation.

Ephesians 1:1-13 Because of the grace of God believers are *chosen, blessed with spiritual blessings, predestined, forgiven, adopted, accepted, redeemed, obtained an inheritance, sealed with the Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 It is through God's grace that we have been gifted eternal life.

Mark 2:16-17; Luke 18:11-14; James 4:6; I Peter 5:5 It is very important to understand this amazing grace that only God can give, He gives it only to those who are humble and are in need.

FORMS OF GRACE

Common Grace – Matthew 5:44-45; Acts 14:16-17 God has no respect of persons when it comes to nature's necessities that we need to survive.

II Peter 3:9 God shows His grace by making provision for the salvation of all men and women and by showing His grace by His patience in delaying judgment and giving people ample time to repent.

Saving Grace – Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11 It is by His grace alone that we can be saved.

Sanctifying Grace – Acts 13:43; I Corinthians 15:10 Sanctifying grace is that grace which works within the true believer in such a way as to bring spiritual growth, maturity, and progress in Christ.

II Peter 3:18 Peter was speaking from experience when he closed out his Epistle by exhorting believers to continue in their spiritual walk to learn more about Christ and grow in the grace of God.

Serving Grace – II Corinthians 8:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-7 Serving grace is for every believer in order to have the ability to serve one another within the body of Christ with the gift the Holy Spirit gives us.

Sustaining Grace – II Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 1:29 God's grace can at times seem contrary to the love of God when we or someone we love are suffering in pain or sorrow.

Hebrews 4:16; 12:6-7 The grace of God is available to believers in times of grief, sorrow, suffering or when we are being tempted of the devil or chastened by the Lord, His love and grace can sustain us.