

1 Grace - God's Love

God's **Character** - His **love** is so **different** than **ours**. His love is **sacrificial**, He is **self-giving**. His love is **unconditional** and He has an **unlimited** amount.

Barriers God's character is so different from

- ① ours - He doesn't struggle with a **low self-image**, He doesn't have to **manipulate** or **control** us in order to **feel good**
- ② He doesn't have **Bitterness** towards us and feel like he has to **get even** with us
- ③ In fact God **doesn't need us** to make Him feel good - He is **Love** - He is **good**. He loves us by **giving Himself** to us **sacrificially** and **unconditionally** -

We call God's love : **GRACE**

Grace is that **active principle** which releases the **unconditional, unlimited LOVE of GOD** upon one who **does not deserve it** and **cannot earn it**

That's why it is so important for each one of us to **understand God's Grace** in order to **come into a relationship** with Him. And to **keep standing** in **God's Grace** after we have a **relationship** with God

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self-diving

- ①
 - ② self-image
 - ③
 - ④
- giving himself
love - the good

GRACE

understand God (Grace)
keep standing

after

2 The whole letter of Galatians is on the subject of **GRACE**. The letter was written by Paul when he found out that Judaizers were following him around **adding** to his message about Christ; They were saying that not only should people ¹ **accept** Christ to have eternal life but they should also become Jewish + keep the ³ **Jewish Law**

Paul taught that Christ **plus any thing** else nullifies the **Grace of God** - God went to such lengths to give us eternal life - **dying** for our **sins** **Himself**. **Why** would we think we could **add** anything to that **gift of God's Grace?**

In Gal. 5: Paul applies God's Grace to our lifestyle: **Grace Produces Freedom**

Let's see what Paul means by **freedom** (v.1) "It was for freedom that Christ set us free" What **kind of freedom** does Christ offer?

Just what **is** freedom?

Everyone **wants** to be free but hardly anyone agrees **what it is**

① In **relativism** freedom would be defined as the **absence** of all restraint i.e.

"I'll be **free** when I can do whatever **I want to do**"

② The Bible defines freedom differently freedom is the **ability** to **do** what you were **designed** to do. It is the power to live the way you were designed to live - **To love, to have joy, fulfillment -**

joy fulfillment -

live - to love, to have

desire

ability to do what you

②

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①

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what is he?

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(iv)

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③

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obtain

GRACE

3 Here we will find how God's Grace defines + produces freedom
freedom to what
freedom from what

v.1 ① Grace produces freedom from the Law
"Keep standing firm" vs "yoke of slavery"

Before these Gentiles became Xians they were in bondage to idols (4:8-11)

Now they were headed back to the bondage of the Law - Jewish law
i.e. trying to get God's acceptance
by religious ritual.

Def Religion is a system of self-improvement to gain the favor of God.

That is not Biblical - God wants a relationship in us based on His Grace

Paul points out that reverting back to the bondage of the law is foolish once they have been freed by grace

You have to choose between law + grace - the 2 life-styles + life-views are mutually exclusive

You will always short-circuit grace if you try to combine law and grace i.e. "I know I have eternal life as a gift from God but I have to live with both law + grace."

Then "Christ will be of no benefit." Why?
Christ's death on the Cross stands as the ultimate condemnation of human works and religious observance

... from ...

... from ...

11-8-11

Law

f.g.

Def

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His Grace

Choose

2

Direct - circuit

Grace

Then "Christ ... why?"

4 Why? If you can add one good work to what Christ died on the Cross then you are saying He died in vain - God could not pay for my sin I have to do more good works to compensate for my sins.

That would mean Christ's death on the Cross was God's Greatest mistake - the worst crime in history if He didn't accomplish what He died for: all my sins - all the sins of all people of all time

J.C. is our SAVIOR and can only be of benefit to us when we recognize Him as Savior - and have despaired of helping ourselves get saved - when we know we can't live good enough lives to meet God's + R

We are proud & hate to admit our inability hate to humble ourselves before God is ruas counters to our feelings & all we are taught in today's world

But once we do accept Christ we are ① truly free - ② We are perfectly accepted by God + ③ free from the performance trap. We are also ④ free from guilt; we all grow up rationalizing, or denying our guilt. The Bible says we either excuse or absuse. The only remedy for guilt is Christ