

A Decision to Choose Grace

Grace is at the heart of Christianity, yet too often it is missing from our Christian experience. Satan misrepresents and cheapens grace, and many believers have lost hold of it. But if you make a decision to choose grace, your life will be a shining witness for Christ.

Grace means I won't pollute the Gospel with the issue of works.

Grace means I will build up others in all I do and say.

Grace means I will live a 'Thank you' life to the Lord.



1. Choosing grace starts with the message we give to the world. The church has historically gravitated to one of two extremes: Either we choose license – *Do whatever you want*, or we choose legalism – *Do what we say, or else*. What is the end result of following either of these paths? Does grace mean it doesn't matter how I choose to live my life? How would you explain grace in the gospel? How does grace work in the Christian life?
2. Chuck Swindoll writes, *Too many folks are being turned off by a twisted concept of the Christian life... more people than ever are projecting a grim-faced caricature of religion-on-demand. I find it tragic that religious kill-joys have almost succeeded in taking the freedom and fun out of faith. People need to know that there is more to the Christian life than deep frowns, pointing fingers, and unrealistic expectations (Grace Awakening, p. xv).* Have you ever viewed Christianity that way? What changed? How can we model grace in a sinful and lost world?
3. Choosing grace means recognizing that everything I am is a result of God's grace, and then reflecting that truth by being *gracious* toward others. Why do we have a hard time believing that *everything* we have and are is because of God's grace? How would this understanding change our lives? How might it change the way we treat others? Read Eph. 4.29 and Col. 4.6. How would *choosing grace* affect the things you say to others, and about others?