

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HAVE A GRACE ORIENTED CHURCH? Pt 8

*The Characteristics of a Grace Oriented Church should strive to include:

1. The fact that grace should be **taught** & **preached** from the pulpit on a **consistent** basis.
2. The fact that the saints are encouraged to **grow in grace** & in the **knowledge of Jesus Christ**.
3. The fact that we should not only preach grace for salvation, but it should be the primary **motive** for **godly Christian living** to occur.
4. The fact that people are **accepted** just as they are, but as **grace** is taught, it motivates us to **walk** with others **graciously** as well.
5. The fact that grace teaching is designed to get people to avoid the unbiblical extremes of **license** & **legalism** in their thinking and doing.
6. The fact that the use of ones **liberty** should be balanced by **love** so as not to stumble another in life.
7. The fact that knowing one's grace _____ "in Christ" is eternal and unchanging, while one's _____ still needs addressing with further grace teaching so we can be _____ by the Spirit of God through the WOG to be all that God would have us to be.

2 Corinthians 5:17

*"In Christ" is the designation of the _____ as seen by _____.

*It means we have gotten out of Adam's _____ family and into God's _____ family. This is because of the cross of Christ & our identity with it.

But this verse (5:17) clearly states that you now have a new _____ (you are "____") and that all things have become new in terms of your new _____, _____, and _____ in Christ.

*Who made this radical change possible? (Ephesians 2:13)

*Knowing your _____ in Christ, is the basis of godly _____ Christian living! Our emphasis must be on _____ who God wants us to be, not just _____ things.

- Some examples to consider:

Luke 10:38-42

- Martha is busy _____, while Mary is _____ / _____ the Lord and _____ His word.
- The Lord's perspective: Mary has chosen the _____ thing. She is sitting at Jesus feet & hearing His _____ taught.
- There is always time for service, but what is more important for the child of God than to spend time at the _____, taking in His word? As this is the way we _____ and in the _____ of Him.

Ephesians 5:1-2

- Here Paul tells us to be _____ of God as His dear children (seek to _____ Him as His dear child in life)
- By being in _____ with Him & allowing His Spirit to fill us with His kind of love for others.
- By walking in _____, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, as a offering to God and as a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma.

Colossians 2:6-7

- The Christian life _____ as it began!

How did it begin? - By faith in Christ (end of verse 5)

How is it to continue? - By walking with Him in faith – being rooted (perfect tense) in Him - this began at the moment of salvation – it speaks of our position which never changes – but it continues as we are continually built up & strengthened by faith (present tense) in Christ – as you have been taught – this indicates the need to be under good teaching in your Christian life – this will edify & strengthen you & it will overflow with thanksgiving to God in life!

2 Peter 1:2-11

*Why is this so important? (Cf 1:10-11)