

## Amazing Grace Week 2: Redeeming Grace

July 4, 2010

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph. 2:4-10*



*The person who keeps every law of God but makes one little slip is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law there is. James 2:10*

*"I finally admitted all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, 'I will confess them to the Lord.' And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone." Psa. 32:5 (TLB)*

### **Guilt and Shame give Birth! Gen 3:1-13**

They were tempted with having more than what they already had received from God’s all sufficiency. They chose to believe that a lie was the truth, rather than what God had already told them. When they sinned, their eyes were opened – they *experienced* evil.

### **Our ways of handling guilt**

*"... they sewed fig leaves together and made something to cover themselves...they hid from the Lord God... 'I was afraid because I was naked'... 'she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.'" Gen. 3:7-12*

We feel guilty

We try to hide

We blame others

We fault God

### **Guilt is both a feeling and a position**

#### **There are two kinds of guilt:**

Genuine Guilt...based on the truth of breaking God’s principles and precepts

False Guilt...based on the measurement of people in your life and their holding the gauge of evaluation

#### **How do I tell the difference? Is the focus on ...**

People or God?

Vague or Specific?

Rules or Relationship?

## Condemnation vs. Conviction

Condemnation produces shame

Conviction produces contrition

Guilt is about what I've done

Shame is about who I am

Condemnation shows you the problem

Conviction shows the solution

## The fruit of guilt and shame:

Relational strain between us and God. Rom. 8:7-8; James 4:4

Separation from God. Isaiah 59:2

Hardness of heart. Eph. 4:18

Destroyed relationships. Gal. 5:14-15

Spiritual slavery. Rom. 7:25

God's judgment. Heb. 10:26-31

Spiritual death. Rom. 6:23

## God's way of handling guilt: Grace!

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* 1John 1:9

**Tell God** *"God, You know what I have done wrong. I cannot hide my guilt from You."* Psa. 69:5 (NCV)

**Trust God's character** *"Let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, because we have been made free from a guilty conscience."* Heb. 10:22 (NCV)

**Accept forgiveness through Jesus Christ** *"I finally admitted all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, 'I will confess them to the Lord.' And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone."* Psa. 32:5 (TLB)

*Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you. You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God. Psalm 51:1-17*