

## Amazing Grace

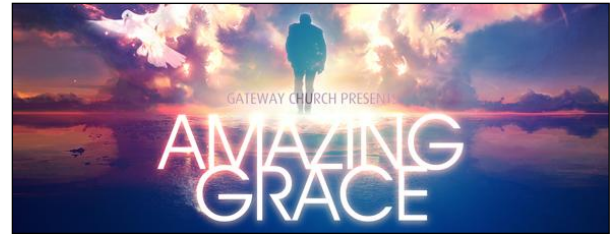
### Week 5: Offering Grace

Aug. 1, 2010

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always **full of grace**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. In this way God's grace causes our lives to be **tasteful** to others, as that grace is demonstrated in our words and actions to them. Col. 4:5-6*

*For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you. 2 Cor.1:12*

*"Give as freely as you have received!" Matt. 10:8 (LB)*



### Forgiveness Quiz

- A person should not be forgiven until he asks for it. T F
- Forgiving includes minimizing the offense and the pain caused. T F
- Forgiveness includes restoring trust and reuniting a relationship. T F
- You haven't really forgiven until you've forgotten the offense. T F
- When I see someone hurt, it is my duty to forgive the offender. T F

### **How do you offer grace to someone undeserving?**

#### **Forgiveness is not:**

- Conditional
- Pretending it's no big deal
- Relationship without change
- At the expense of personal accountability and restitution
- Equal to forgetting
- "Making nice"
- My right when I wasn't the one who was hurt

#### **Forgiveness is:**

##### **To rediscover the frailty of our own human condition**

*"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." Matt.7:5*

##### **To let go of the right to get even**

*Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for He has said that He will repay those who deserve it. Romans 12:19 (LB)*

##### **To release the need to answer the question "Why"?**

*"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matt. 6:15 (NIV)*

##### **To leave behind the bitterness**

*Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others. Heb. 12:15 (Ph)*

### **To authenticate confession and repentance, restitution and trust**

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Eph. 4:29-32*

### **To participate in the offender's redemption**

*"If you enter your place of worship and are about to make an offering, but you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God." Matt. 5:23-24*

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully **administering God's grace** in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

### **To experience that redemption personally**

*Peter asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No," Jesus replied, "seventy times seven!" Matt. 18:21-22 (NLT)*

### **What does offering grace look like in my life?**

Matthew 18:23-35

Durability  
Delight  
Desire  
Debt  
Duty

*"He who cannot forgive another breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass." George Herbert*