

Part 5 – July 11, 2010

## Disciplined By Grace

### Intro

Quick word association--be ready..... \_\_\_\_\_  
Second quick word association..... \_\_\_\_\_

- Oxymoron = a figure of speech employing the juxtaposition of two normally contradictory as "cruel kindness".

*Is the phrase "disciplined by grace" an oxymoron to you?*

### The Grace of God *Teaches Us*

**Titus 2:1-10**

**Titus 2:11-12**

- *Are you normally disciplined by legalism instead of grace?*
- **Do we really have a full understanding of discipline?**

**Ephesians 6:4**

"Now Paul personifies this grace of God. Grace the saviour becomes grace the teacher. it teaches us (12a), or maybe disciplines us. In 1880 a book was published in Britain entitled The School of Grace, and sub-titled Expository Thoughts on Titus 2:11-14. Its author was Canon Hay Aitken. He wrote: 'Grace not only saves, but undertakes our training.' So all Christians become 'learners in the School of Grace'. Further, 'Grace bases all her teaching upon the great facts in which her first grand revelation of herself was made, and finds all her teaching power in those mighty memories.'"  
**John Stott, Guard The Truth, p. 193**

**"EVERY METHOD OF DISCIPLINE THAT GOD USES TO TEACH AND TRAIN US IS BASED IN HIS GRACE, THE UNMERITED FAVOR HE EXTENDS TO US."**

- **Difficult and painful circumstances**
- **Amazing and unexpected abundance, followed by loss**

Do you have a personal "to do" list when it comes to spiritual disciplines? What are the spiritual disciplines on your spiritual "to do" list? How do you think God reacts to you when you don't manage to accomplish your "to do" list of spiritual disciplines?

We will naturally think "performance = reward" and "nonperformance = punishment"

## **Salvation and Discipline are Inseparable**

**Hebrews 12:8**

**Philippians 1:6**

Does the thought of being disciplined until we see Christ face to face encourage you or bring you concern?

- Why encouraged? *1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 13:21; 2 Corinthians 13:5*

*"WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH ALONE, BUT  
THE FAITH THAT SAVES IS NEVER ALONE!"*

*Luther*

- Why concerned?

"Many of us have friends and relatives who say they are Christians, or who once made a profession of faith, but we see no evidence of the disciplines of grace. "

**What do we do with that concern?**

"[W]hen a person is genuinely saved, truly converted and given new life in Jesus Christ, there is a transformation not only of nature but of living. It is not possible...to be saved from the penalty of sin and not be saved from its power and dominion. Because of a Christian's new nature and the indwelling Holy Spirit, he simply cannot continue to live in unmitigated sin, bereft of any outward evidence of his new, holy, and righteous nature and of the presence of Christ's own Holy Spirit within him.

"By His divine grace, Jesus Christ completely reprograms our computers, as it were. [not our minds] He throws away the old disks and deletes the previous programs and files-all of which were permeated with errors and destructive 'viruses'-and graciously replaces them with His own divine truth and righteousness. 'I have been crucified with Christ,' Paul testified to the churches in Galatia, 'and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me' (Gal. 2:20).

"Scripture does not teach that sinless perfection is possible in the earthly lives of believers...[n]evertheless, a person who is divinely born again is no longer under the pervasive dominion of sin and of Satan. He has a radical new nature and is called and enabled to reflect that new nature in a radically new way of living. ... Our present earthly life is a time of sanctification, a two-sided process of becoming less and less like our old and sinful self and more and more like our new and Christlike self."

**John McArthur**, *Titus*, pp. 114-115

*This is the time to pray--and to speak to yourself words of encouragement, like David did: "Why so downcast oh my soul, put your trust in God". Or with words like Spurgeon wrote:*

"Can you answer this, believer? Can you find any reason why you are so ofte mourning instead of rejoicing? Why yield to gloomy anticipations? Who told you that the night would never end in day? Who told you that the sea of circumstances would ebb out until there should be nothing left but long leagues of the mud of horrible poverty? Who told you that the winter of your discontent would proceed from frost to frost, from snow, and ice and hail, to deeper snow, and yet more heavy tempest of despair? \*\*\* God does not fail you. \*\*\* You shall yet, amidst the splendors of eternity, forget the trials of time, or only remember them to bless the God who led you through them, and wrought your lasting good by them. Come, sing in the midst of tribulation. Rejoice even while passing through the furnace. Make the wilderness blossom like the rose! Cause the desert to ring with your exulting joys, for these light afflictions will soon be over, and then 'forever with the Lord,' your bliss shall never wane."

**Charles Spurgeon**, *Morning and Evening*, July 21, evening.

## God's Grace Teaches Us To Say "No"!

"No" to ungodliness!

**Romans 1:21** -- *Ignoring and disregarding God*

"No" to worldly passions! -- *The things the world is passionate about*

**1 Corinthians 7:31**

We died to sin's reign, but we are also working out this victory, day by day

**Romans 8:13; 1 Peter 2:11; Ephesians 4:22**

"Impress upon yourself the utter inconsistency of claiming to be a Christian but continuing to live in the old way. So obvious, is it not? And yet how we all fail to do it. \*\*\* [L]et me illustrate the teaching by giving you another incident out of my pastoral experience. Again it sounds simple and almost trivial, yet I feel it is one of the greatest things that has ever come within the realm of my experience. It concerns a certain man in his early fifties, who had lived a very evil and dissolute life. He was a drunkard, a fighter, gambler, wife-beater, adulterer; there was nothing, I imagine, short of murder, that the man had not been guilty of; and indeed, he would have been guilty of murder in many a drunken brawl if he had not been restrained by his own friends. He had a fiendish, foul temper, and he became mad under drink. Eventually he came under the sound of the gospel and was converted. Now this is where the thing sounds almost ludicrous, but this is the fact. He was a tall man, athletic, well built, a fighter. And there was one thing he was particularly proud of, namely his moustache and its length from tip to tip. (Is it not extraordinary what people are proud of?) This was his particular matter of pride. In fact, the cause of most of his fightings happened to be his moustache, because some other man would challenge him that his moustache measured more from tip to tip than his own. And so a quarrel would begin, and they would end in fighting. But he was not only proud of his moustache; he also boasted that no man could stand up to him in his prowess as a fighter. Then the unexpected happened. He came to church, and was converted, and we looked on the event with wonder.

"But this is the story. Some six weeks after the man's conversion he came to a week-night meeting, and I noticed immediately as he came in that the moustache had gone. He had not merely cut off the extended ends but he had shaved off the entire

moustache. My immediate reaction was one of annoyance; I said to myself, Some busybody in this church has told this man to do that. At the end of the meeting, as he was going out, I stopped him and said I wanted a word with him. Who told you to get rid of that moustache? I said. Nobody! He replied. Now come along, I said; don't shield anybody; this kind of busybody does great harm in a church. I am out to get rid of these self-appointed spiritual detectives, I continued. Tell me the truth. Who told you to get rid of that moustache? He said, Nobody has told me. I still pressed him hard, but he persisted. Well, I said, why have you got rid of it then? I will tell you, he said. I was getting up, actually, this morning and after I had washed, I went to the looking-glass, and I was there, he said, brushing my hair. Suddenly I saw my moustaches - and I said to myself, THEM THINGS DON'T BELONG TO A CHRISTIAN! So I cut off the ends, he said, and I shaved off the rest.

"The man, let me add, could neither read nor write. He had lived such a dissolute, evil life, and had been brought up in such a loose way, that, literally, he could not write, he could not read; and that was his expression. `THEM THINGS DON'T BELONG TO A CHRISTIAN!' Illiterate and ignorant, yes, but he had been born again, and the Spirit of God had come into him; and the Spirit of God with His unction and anointing had taught him the lesson, `THEM THINGS DON'T BELONG TO A CHRISTIAN!' "Put off the old man!" And he had put him off in that respect. They belonged to the old life, they had nothing to do with the new life. Very simple, is it not? Ignorant, illiterate man! I would to God that this church were full of such people! I see Christians today, even deliberately, it seems to me, putting on the old man! Putting on things that belong to the life of the flesh and the devil and the world. And they have not yet realized that `THEM THINGS DON'T BELONG TO A CHRISTIAN!'

**D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**, *Ephesians*, "When Not To Pray But To Act", pp. 146-48

## God's Grace Teaches Us To Say "Yes"!

**Ephesians 4:22-24**

**Ephesians 4:25-5:7**

**Titus 2:8, 10**

"Everything bad they [the ungodly] can seize hold of in our life is twisted maliciously against Christ and His teaching. The result is that by our fault God's sacred name is exposed to insult. The more closely we see ourselves being watched by our enemies, the more intent we should be to avoid their slanders, so that their ill-will strengthens us in the desire to do well."  
**John Calvin**

**Stealing is to be put off, generosity is to be put on. Which of the following three attitudes most closely describes you?**

1. "What's yours is mine; I will take it."
2. "What's mine is mine; I will keep it."
3. "What's mine is God's; I will share it."

**The principles of Grace:**

1. Our sins are forgiven and we are unconditionally accepted through what Christ did on the cross.
2. We have been delivered from the rule and reign, as well as the penalty, of sin, and we are given power and strength by the Holy Spirit to resist sin through our union with C h r i s t we died with Him on the cross.

**What is the difference between putting on and putting off in our own strength, and putting on and putting off in the strength of the Lord?**

"The Apostle gives these instructions not as a drill sergeant does. The drill sergeant does not appeal to intelligence. He bawls out instructions - Put off! Put on!! That is not what we have here at all. The Christian life is not a mechanical life! Does this need to be emphasized? I have a fear that it does. I see too many Christians doing things on parade ground fashion these days; 'Put off!' 'Put on!' ' [L]et me put it like this: the Apostle is not calling only for an outward change of actions and of habits. What he is really calling for is this inward change in the mind, because he knows that if a man's inward mind is changed he will soon deal with the outward actions. In other words, Paul is not asking you to take off one uniform and put on another. A man who is not regenerate (born again) can do that. That is the difference between morality and Christianity. The non-Christian moral man is a man who takes off the bad suit and puts on the good suit, but he is still unchanged, and therefore he is not a Christian."

**D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Ephesians, pp. 163-64**

**For the believer:**

<b>All God does</b>	<b>All weakness</b>
<b>All God allows</b>	<b>All strength</b>
<b>All temptation</b>	<b>All blessing</b>
<b>All encouragement</b>	<b>All tests</b>
<b>All discouragement</b>	<b>All trials</b>

**"All of these are carefully and lovingly weighed, measured and tempered by God's grace for the purpose of our best welfare and on the basis of God's wonderful unmerited favor."**

"God's grace is His active favor bestowing the greatest gift upon those who have deserved the greatest punishment." Wm. Hendrickson

**Take the true/false test:**

TRUE	FALSE	
		While God is disciplining me by His grace, I perceive it as more by law than by grace
		I see the grace of God disciplining me, even by His Word and adverse circumstances.
		I labor under the burden of guilt.
		I accept the forgiveness of God's grace.
		The Bible is only a rule book of commands that I am struggling to
		I am relying on my union with Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit for

**"RUN, JOHN RUN, THE LAW COMMANDS  
BUT GIVES NEITHER FEET NOR HANDS.  
BETTER NEWS THE GOSPEL BRINGS;  
IT BIDS ME FLY AND GIVES ME WINGS."  
Attributed to John Bunyan**