
Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

2 Corinthians 12:10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Why we worship, why we sing

Grace #1 and Grace #2

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Worship and singing in community;
I am not alone in any situation or trouble

Summary: We need a grace-based community. Grace #1: undeserved favor. Grace #2: power for living. Together we understand that life is harder than we imagined, dealing with self and others is difficult, but we unite together, with synergy, to exhort and remind each of us forward to tell the story of God.

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Spiritual Community

Isolation—part 3

We are made for a grace-based community

May 1, 2022

Series review: I need...

1: Community that delivers truth that comes alive in everyday life in everyday people (Spiritual theology)

2: Community that stirs an appetite to want to be more like Jesus (Spiritual formation)

Grace and the problem of addiction to self

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace that you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.

Grace #1 = undeserved favor

The costliness of grace

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ **In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:** ⁶ *Who, being in very nature God,*

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

■ The gospel of grace

Galatians 1:6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one **who called you to live in the grace of Christ** and are turning to a different gospel...

Colossians 2:6-7 **As** therefore you **received** (PAST TENSE) Christ Jesus the Lord, **so live** (PRESENT TENSE) in Him, rooted and built up in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in Thanksgiving.

■ Living in the tension of grace

Grace #1= undeserved favor

Romans 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of

wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, **because you are not under the law, but under grace.**

Romans 7:21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 **What a wretched man I am!** Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 **Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

John 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory..."

■ Grace #2 = power for living

2 Corinthians 12:7 ...Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.