

## The Whole Church #24 – Grace #9

AT Snacks-- September 1, 2024

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### Monday:

There are seven things that kind of form and shape our spiritual DNA here at Trinity: The Kingdom of God, a relationship with the Father, grace, relationships with one another/family, equipping the saints, signs and wonders and the poor.

You can't seek the Kingdom of God without running into the Father. If you pursue the Father, it won't be long until you begin to see His Kingdom. You can't separate the two.

Engaging in the personal relationship with the Father sets everything else in proper perspective.

Grace must be experienced for you to even start the process, to understand it.

True liberty for the kingdom person is living as we should, not living as we please. *"All things are lawful, but not all things are productive"*. It's up to you to know which things are lawful, but are not productive for you.

You'll never really appreciate grace until you look at the law. There are things that are wrong, and there are things that are not good for you, and how you know the difference in those is you listen to and pay attention to the Holy Spirit.

The highest form of life, the best life you can live, is living in a delicate balance between liberty and responsibility. It's kind of like you're always searching for the sweet spot there. As long as you're always searching, you're going to end up in a better place.

If you really want to appreciate grace, read the whole book of Leviticus, but check out Leviticus 26:1-22 for starters.

### Tuesday:

**You have the Holy Spirit in you, to direct you at every juncture you're at. Most of the time He's quiet, and if you're about to do something you shouldn't do, you won't get a loud rebuke or whatever from the Holy Spirit. It's easy to run by that, so please pay attention to what the Holy Spirit wants to say to you.**

It does me good to go back and read all the facets of the law and the things that were offensive to God, the things that hurt God, and the things that were alien and foreign to the nature of God.

No man could keep the law. No man was even made righteous by the law. But Jesus entered the holy place at one time and shed His blood, and His blood shed one time was enough to deliver you from your sin and your sinful nature. That's a big deal! We probably can't even imagine how big a deal that really is.

**Jesus kept every facet of those 613 laws, and died on the cross because we couldn't. He**

**stepped in front of you and said, “I’ll take it on me. I’ll take the punishment and the sin and the ire and angst of God, so you don’t have to”. If you get a revelation of that, it’s going to mess you up for life.**

People take elements of the law and judge themselves and judge others with what’s written under an old covenant that’s not in effect anymore.

The old testament says not to make any cuts or carvings in the flesh. Most people think that’s tattoos. I don’t have any, but that doesn’t make me any more righteous than someone who’s tatted all over. If that’s your conviction, then it’s wrong for you to do it, but now that we’re under grace, you can be at peace in that. It does say that in the Bible, but that’s under a covenant that’s no longer in effect for the people of God.

Under the Old Covenant, under the law, sin did have dominion. Under the New Covenant, you’re not under the law anymore. Sin has no dominion over you. You’ve been set free from sin. You’ve been given a pardon from the penalty of every sin you ever committed, the ones you commit now, and the ones you will commit in the future.

### **Wednesday:**

Please read Galatians 5:1-10. Paul always emphasized two things; to keep people from getting under the law, and to free up the people who are already under the law.

**“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free, and don’t be entangled again in a yoke of bondage”.**

A disposable relationship with the Lord is like, *“I got saved, but I got off away from the Lord, living my own life without living with the counsel of God. But if I get in a jam in my life or get worried about something, I run to the Lord. And when my circumstance is over, I go back to my own way again”.*

If sin is your focus, you’re eventually going to fall back into it. So, sin shouldn’t be your focus. Walk and pay attention to the Holy Spirit.

All things are lawful, but all things are not productive. What’s right in this certain set of circumstances might not be right in another circumstance. You must be at peace with it. But if you cause a brother to stumble, that’s not right.

You might feel free to have a cigar or a beer, but you should abstain from that if it’s going to cause someone to stumble.

Don’t be condemning of everybody else who is not aware of and not talking about grace. You are just contaminating the message when you talk about grace and you don’t give grace to other people who are not where you are.

### **Thursday:**

Unity is not about us agreeing on everything. When it stops being about you, you’ll start to experience some unity. I take this posture. I’m okay with where you are. I’m not okay for me

being there, but I'm totally okay for you being there.

You may have really, really strong opinions about your scriptural stuff, and if you get condemning and ugly about that, it cuts off any productive communication about it. Jordan Peterson says, "*any time you sit down with someone else, you have to first understand that they know stuff that you don't know. You don't know everything*".

Walking in grace, personally and toward others, brings an ongoing and consistent change in your life.

If you neglect, or fail to respond appropriately to grace, you have received grace in vain. If you receive it and then don't walk in it, it's in vain. These people begin to revert back to law and back to legalism to achieve their righteousness.

*"I read my Bible a lot. If I pray a lot, be nice to people, help old ladies across the street and do all those things, I'm righteous"*. None of those things have anything to do with your being righteous. **You're only righteous, not because of what you do, but because of what Jesus has done.**

Please read 1 Corinthians 10:23-31. This really helps to set the tone for the rest of this message.

You were born with a conscience, even before you were born again. You have a pretty good understanding of right and wrong, so you don't have a decent excuse to do wrong. That's why the Gentiles, having not the law, did the things contained in the law, their conscience also bearing them witness, so they were able to do the right things morally in these situations, even before they received the Holy Spirit.

### **Friday:**

Why is my liberty judged by someone else who's holding to the law that's not even in effect anymore? If he wants to hold himself to that law, he can do it, but don't impose that on me or anybody else.

Drinking is an interesting subject. We take the position that I believe the Bible takes around here. We don't encourage it, nor do we prohibit it, but anything that you do in excess is wrong.

If you want to have a beer with Mexican food, or a glass of wine with your Italian food, and you're not going to cause a brother to stumble, I don't see one thing wrong with it. I don't encourage it, nor do I think the Bible prohibits it. Paul even told Timothy to take a little bit of wine for his frequent stomach illnesses.

This might be a shock to your system a little bit, but here is what the Lord showed me about that wine. When we get to the marriage supper of the Lamb, you're going to have wine, and it's going to be the good wine.

I don't encourage it, nor do I prohibit it. If the Holy Spirit is not big enough to direct you in those kinds of things, you can't take me to the Bible and prove to me that it's wrong to do what I just said.

I see it happen all the time. It can happen with all of us. When you start to get a taste of grace, and you start to sense that you have liberty in all these things that we're talking about, it's not rare

for one to go into the ditch on one side or the other. As long as you are going after God, you're going to pull her up before you start to hit the fence. You will be able to pull her back up in the road.

The best, highest form, the happiest you can be, the most content you can be in your whole life is lived in a delicate balance of liberty and responsibility. The Holy Spirit will help you every step of the way.

### **Saturday:**

**STAND FAST** means to hold your ground in freedom. Be unwavering, immovable, continuing to walk in freedom. Don't slip back into legalistic rules based on DEAD RELIGION. *“Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free. And don't get entangled again in a yoke of bondage”*.

Don't get entangled again in dead, lifeless, legalistic, rules-based religion, because you're not under that anymore.

**Religion without relationship with God is dead.** I don't care how many times you go to church. I don't care how many scriptures I can quote by memory, if you don't have a relationship with the Lord, that's all dead. D,E,A,D, religion

All true kingdom people have good or improving morals, but all who have good morals are not necessarily true kingdom people.

Receiving and walking in grace is a deep spiritual phenomenon that has a wide variety of outward results.

Galatians 5:4 says, *“You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law. You have fallen from grace”*. Falling from grace doesn't mean you don't get any more grace. He's talking about leaving grace and getting back under law, which is a normal thing if you are not committed to the relationship part with the Lord.

*“Be still and know that I'm God”*. You might be in this place where you feel like you're really getting tested. *“Count it all joy when you fall into various trials”*. After you have confessed and prayed, just stand, brace up and experience the grace of God. God's going to fix it, or He's going to give you all the grace, and more, that you need to go through it.

ASK GOD. What is it in this situation? What is it that I'm supposed to learn in this situation? What are you doing in me right now? Then, just take a deep breath and relax in the grace of God.