

# Characteristics of God's Grace

(Part 1)

## Covenant Grace

As a sinner, I love to hear and speak on my Lord's Wonderful Grace to me. the words to "Amazing Grace" are the closest I believe we in our small human way can come to describing the beauty of it!

Tonight, we begin a series of studies on God's Amazing Grace, a study that I pray, will delight the very hearts our Lord has been, and will be, Gracious Too. I say this upfront, we cannot exhaust the depth of His Grace, we cannot even number it! But for the sake of our studies, I believe we can look at least a few of the different sides to this diamond, some Characteristics of His Grace will overlap with others, some will mingle together side by side, but it is my intent to grab ahold of each one and magnify it for the Glory of my Savior to the best of my ability!

We must begin back before a star ever twinkled in the sky, before the foundation of the worlds, before time itself, before anything else was, there was The Eternal One, There was God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. One Holy God yet Three distinct persons!

(Gen 1:26) **And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** Three times in this verse The Almighty Creator refers to Himself in Plural form, yet notice in the next verse; (Gen 1:27) **So God created man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.** Again three times, yet now He refers to Himself, singularly!

The word "God" (*el-o-heem'*) used in verse 26 is the plural form of the word (*el-o'-ah, el-o'-ah*) which means "Deity" "Almighty"

We read In (Mal 2:10) **Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?**

**(Exo 20:3) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

**(Exo 34:14) For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:**

God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, a great mystery yet true none the less. God was manifest in the Flesh; (1Ti 3:16) **And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**

**(Joh 1:1-3) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**

**(Joh 14:9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father.**

**(1Jn 5:5-8) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.**

I know these are some familiar verses to most of you, but with these verses, we establish this truth, God is three persons yet one God, with that truth in mind, we may have an understanding, or a small glimpse you might say, of the meaning of the phrase “Covenant Grace”, the Great Three in One made a promise, a pact between each other to be Gracious to a particular people!

The word “Covenant” is a word that means “pact”, An agreement between two or more parties, a promise of one, to another!

“Covenant; *ber-eeth'* ” -a *compact* (made by passing between *pieces* of flesh) according to the electronic King James dictionary.

I counted 27 times this word is used in the book of Genesis alone, according to the King James concordance it is used 254 times in the old testament!

Here are some verses in regard to Noah, that gives us a reference of how the word is used;

(Gen 6:18) **But with thee will I establish my **covenant**; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.**

(Gen 9:9) **And I, behold, I establish my **covenant** with you, and with your seed after you;**

(Gen 9:11-13) **And I will establish my **covenant** with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the **covenant** which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a **covenant** between me and the earth.**

(Gen 9:15-17) **And I will remember my **covenant**, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting **covenant** between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the **covenant**, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.**

The Holy Almighty God is a God of Promise! A Covenant God! God the Father gave a people to God the to be saved, God the Son accomplished the means of saving this people, And God the Spirit moves in this people drawing them and revealing to them the Son! And all this was agreed upon before a star ever lit up the sky, Even before the foundation of the world!

**(Zec 12:1) The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.**

**(Mat 25:34) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

This one who forms the spirit of man is the Potter, as clay vessels, we are formed for His purpose, His purpose of being Gracious to a people, a people He has loved from before the world was!

**(Rom 9:15-24) For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?**

Folks this is where the multifaceted, multisided Diamond of Grace pops with brilliant light!

**(Eph 1:3-7) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him: In love having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;**

The people of God are saved by His Grace, it was nothing we did, or could do! Our doings are full of sin, full of unrighteousness. Only in God's Grace and perfect Righteousness are we saved, Grace in sending His perfect Righteous Son to substitute Himself in the Judgment we deserve. The Judgment we have earned.

**(2Co 5:21) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

The Covenant of old is the covenant of Grace! The Covenant of Love!

**(Jer 31:3) The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.**

Look with me in John chapter 17, and take note of the Language used in our Lord's priestly prayer!

Read verses 1-11 of John chapter 17.

The language is Clear, In the Covenant of Grace, God the Father gave a people to God the Son!

Yet all men of Adam have sinned, (Rom 5:12) **Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

The Holy God cannot look upon Sin, so something must be Done! Justice must be met!

So the Son's Agreement to this Covenant, from before the foundation of the world was to provide everything this sinful people need to be redeemed to God! and He did!

(Heb 1:1-3) **God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**

What a wonderful word Full of Grace! "Purged" *kath-ar-is-mos'*  
"a *washing* off, that is, (ceremonially) *ablution*, (morally) *expiation*: - cleansing, + purge, purification". That which was unclean is now Purged, redeemed unto God. Good news to a poor Sinner!

(Gal 3:13) **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:**

(1Pe 1:18-20) **Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,**

And last but not least, we consider the Spirit of God's part In this Covenant between the great Three in One before the foundation of the world!

Just as we read in (Genesis 1:2) **And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.** The Holy Spirit agreed to move upon the people of God, Giving Life and revealing the Person and Works of Christ Jesus The Lord, to those that The Father hath given The Son!

The order I just gave is right, Life must come first; (Joh 6:63) **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

(Joh 3:5-8) **Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**

As in the case of Lazarus, Life must be given before we can respond, before we can receive. Once we have been quickened, (Made alive), the Spirit of God reveals why we have Life! Not because of Himself, but because of Christ Jesus! In Christ we have Life!

(Joh 16:12-15) **I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.**

Read with me these words of the works of the Spirit; (Eph 1:15-19)  
**Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

**(1Co 2:9-14) But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

And to emphasize this Covenant being of Grace, the Holy Spirit moved upon the Apostle Paul to continue with these words!

**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.**

The salvation of a particular people, chosen out of the world of man, was determined in a "Covenant of Grace", made in eternity between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit!