

Theoacademy

Form Your Faith. Anytime. Anywhere.

Lesson 1: A People of Grace

Theocademy

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Getting Started

Before watching the video, consider the following questions.

- What was the best present you ever received?

- What made this gift so special?

During the Video

As you watch the video, think about the following questions.

- What are some of the words used to describe grace?

- In the Presbyterian tradition, what are typically understood as the three “ordinary” means of grace?

- What impact should grace have on the lives of Christians?

A Lifestyle of Gratitude

Once you've watched the video, consider your response to these questions.

- In the video, Dr. Ayers states that “grace is the thing that defines our relationship with God.” Knowing that God could have chosen any number of other ways to interact with us (punishment, legalism, etc.), what do you think this means about God’s character?

- One of the most important roles of the Church is to provide support and accountability for its members. In your opinion, why are support and accountability so important in the life of a Christian?

- In what ways has your life changed as a result of God’s grace?

- What would a “lifestyle of gratitude” look like for you, in particular?

How Do We Live Grace?

As a group, read through the two scripture passages and discuss the following questions.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” - *Romans 12:3-8*

“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift.... The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” - *Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13*

- What similar characteristics do you see being described in the two passages?

- Can we live this way on our own? Where do we get the power to live out this “calling?”

- Why should we as believers live this way? What’s the purpose, according to these passages?

- In what ways do these passages help you to refine your understanding of grace?

Grace Lived Out

Take five minutes and walk around the church, keeping in mind what you've just read and talked about. As you walk or once you've returned to your seat, jot down your responses in the following chart and share your responses as a group.

Ways I've Experienced God's Grace at This Church	Ways I See God's Grace at Work in This Church
Ways I Can Show God's Grace at This Church	