

THE FACE OF GRACE
Ephesians 2:4-10
Dan Winkler, FHU, Feb. 2020

INTRODUCTION

- A. What does grace look like?
 - 1. Barnabas was sent to the new church planted in Antioch, Syria, Acts 11:22-23.
 - 2. What did he see? *He witnessed the grace of God.*
- B. Ephesians 2:4-10
 - 1. God's mercy.
 - 2. God's love.
 - 3. God's kindness.

I. MERCY.

- A. The Meaning of Mercy.
 - 1. Luke 6:36, "*Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*"
 - 2. Ephesians 2 – saved by grace...
 - a. Because God is rich in mercy, vs. 4.
 - 3. But what does that mean?
- B. A Definition of Mercy.
 - 1. Eleos – good will towards the miserable and afflicted, with a desire to relieve them.
 - 2. An emotion roused by contact with an affliction which comes undeservedly on someone.
- C. God's Mercy.
 - 1. God is willing to feel with us because of the misery and affliction Jesus experienced on our behalf.
 - 2. He extends the compassion of His heart because of the undeserved misery Jesus was willing to go through for our sins, Heb. 4:15.
 - 3. In Eph. 2:4-10, benefits that are ours because of Christ:
 - a. We are alive "with Christ," and seated "with Christ," vss. 5-6.
 - b. We are enriched from being "in Christ," vs. 7.
 - c. We are new creatures "in [or by] Christ," 2 Cor. 5:17.

II. LOVE.

- A. Imitators of Christ [Commanded by the Holy Spirit].
 - 1. Walk in love, Eph. 5:1-2.
 - 2. A God of love and peace, 2 Cor. 13:11.
- B. Saved by Grace.
 - 1. That is the kind of God we serve.
 - 2. His great love moved Him to send Jesus for us.
 - a. John 3:16
 - b. Romans 5:8
 - c. 1 John 4:9-10
 - 3. But what does that mean?
- C. Love Defined.
 - 1. Eros – physical love, to gratify the flesh.
 - 2. Storgeo – family affection: parents for children, children for parents.

3. Phileo – love between friends.
 4. Agapeo – (Eph. 2).
 - a. A deliberate decision to love and want what is best for the one loved.
 - b. A love that regards the welfare of the one loved.
- D. God Has Feelings for Us.
1. Eph. 3:18-19 (17b)
 - a. “...*breadth, length, height, and depth...*”
 - b. He blesses no matter who we are, where we’ve been, or what we have done.
 2. God, the Father loves us and wants what is best for us, Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8.
 3. God, the Son loves us and wants what is best for us, Gal. 2:20; Rev. 1:5.
 4. God, the Holy Spirit loves us and wants what is best for us, Rom. 15:30; Phil. 2:1.
 5. Their feelings are so strong, that the Bible says, “*God is love (agape)*,” 1 Jn. 4:8.

III. KINDNESS.

- A. Be Kind to One Another, Eph. 4:32.
1. Treat each other the way God has treated us – with forgiveness.
 - a. The kindness of God moves us to repentance, Rom. 2:4.
 - b. The kindness and severity of God, Rom. 11:22.
 2. Saved by grace, Eph. 2. God enjoys showing His kindness, vs. 7.
- B. Kindness Defined.
1. The quality of a gentle spirit.
 2. It is a spirit that does what is right and helps others.
 3. Examples of kindness:
 - a. What Joseph asked of Pharaoh’s butler, Gen. 40:14.
 - b. Rahab asked for the spies, Josh. 2:12.
 - c. Jonathan requested of David, 1 Sam. 20:14-15.
 - d. David asked of Jabesh-Gilead, 2 Sam. 2:5-6.
- C. God’s Feelings Reach Out to Us.
1. David describes this God, Ps. 31:21, “*Blessed be the Lord, for He has shown me His marvelous kindness.*” (NKJ)
 2. Only other verses in N.T. using the word “kindness” as to how God treats us:
 - a. His kindness keeps from losing temper, Rom. 2:4.
 - b. His kindness buffers severity and results in “second chance,” Rom. 11:22-23.
 - c. His kindness forgives us, proving how much He loves us, Eph. 4:32-5:2.

CLOSING

- A. What did Barnabas see?
1. Mercy, love, kindness.
 2. Found in those of us who have been blessed:
 - a. By the mercy of God’s forgiveness.
 - b. By the love of God’s acceptance.
 - c. By the kindness of God’s care.
- B. Is it seen I the face of the one smiling back at you in the mirror?