

Reflections on the Character of God

The reflection section has 5 scriptures that pertain to this week's aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections give you 2 more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

God's Glory

Reflection:

Exodus 33:18-34:7; Psalm 19:1-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Revelation 4:9-11;
Revelation 21:22-27

Life Response:

Psalm 96:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:31



A Discipleship Journey – Amazing Grace A Nourishing Culture of Grace – July 25, 2021

*“Grace comes free of charge to people who do not deserve it and I am one of those people.... Now, I am trying in my own small way to pipe the tune of grace. I do so because I know, more surely than I know anything, that any pang of healing or forgiveness, or goodness, I have ever felt comes solely from the grace of God. I yearn for the church to become **a nourishing culture of that grace**” - Philip Yancey, What's So Amazing About Grace*

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Jesus embodies a fullness of truth and grace.

Truth (Without Grace) - Standards without compassion lead to legalism.

Grace (Without Truth) - Compassion without standards leaves people stuck in sin.

Truth needs to be delivered with Grace because truth stings!

Be as patient with others as God has been with you!

Grace driven people remember where they came from.

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,”
- Colossians 3:12

We are chosen, we are holy, and we are dearly loved!

Grace driven people reflect grace.

Put on then... compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience” – Col. 3:12

Compassion - There is a heart of compassion that God wants to be visible in us – to feel for others and feel with others.

Kindness grows out of compassion.

Humility flows out of remembering the grace God gave you. See Romans 12:3

Meekness is not weakness... It’s actually strength under control.

Patience - The world says “*give them what they deserve*”. Grace says “Be patient with them”.

3 Concrete Actions from Grace:

1. Forbear - put up with.
2. Forgive - “*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*” - Ephesians 4:32
3. Put on Love - “*above all these put on love*” – Col. 3:14

Grace driven people demonstrate whose they are.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

To hear this message again, go to gracepointny.org/media or follow our podcast.

Discussion Questions

Before jumping into the questions share one thing that stood out to you from this past weekend’s message on grace.

1. Read the quote by Philip Yancey in your notes. How would you describe “*a nourishing culture of grace*”?
2. Read John 1:14. Can you think of a story from the gospels where Jesus exhibited both Truth and Grace in His interaction with someone?
3. While Jesus embodies a fullness of Truth and Grace we tend to lean toward one over the other. Which side do you tend to lean? Grace over truth or truth over grace? Why?
4. Read Colossians 3:5-11 What are the things that God has called us to “*put away*” or “put off”? What are some very practical examples of these things in our daily lives? How can we put them off according to verse 10?
5. Looking at what God calls us to “*put on*” in Col. 3:12 how do each of these things reflect the Grace of God to us?
6. Of the 3 Concrete Actions of Grace; Forbearance, Forgiveness and Putting on Love, which is the most difficult for you? Why?
7. Looking at Col. 3:15 -16 what are two practical ways for us to grow in the Grace of Christ?

Prayer response:

As you close take some time in your group to pray for our church. Pray that we would always promote a “nourishing culture of grace”. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart whatever is needed most for that to become a reality.