

# God's Grace, Mercy, and Love

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## ➤ Intro:

- **illus.: man sacrifice self to save daughter, school bus accident**
- **Ephesians is about God's grace, mercy, and love**
  - **grace:** attitude of mind (disposition) from which kindly acts proceed, Divine favor
  - **mercy:** the manifestation ("doing") of grace, the doing of kind acts as a result of a gracious disposition
  - **love (agape):** the commitment (mental, not feeling) to do good toward, God loved us while we were yet sinners
- **this lesson:** quickly explore 6 aspects of God's grace, mercy, and love, as revealed in Ephesians
  - **Eph. 1:3 spiritual blessings in Christ**

## ➤ God chose us, predestined us to adoption – grace, mercy, love – spiritual blessings in Christ

- **Eph. 1:3-6 chose, predestined, adoption**
  - **vs. 4 God chose us**, before the world was created, that we would be holy and blameless
  - **vs. 5-6 God predestined** (predetermined, decide beforehand) us to adoption, through and in Jesus Christ
    - **1 Tim. 2:4 God wants everyone to be saved – God wants to adopt everyone**
- **illus.: teacher chose (predestined) that students who do all their homework would get an A that week**
  - **teacher not predetermine exactly which students**, but predetermined the qualifications (criteria)
  - **God predetermined**, before creating the world, that everyone in Christ (vs. 6) would become His child, adopted
    - **not choose which people, but chose the qualifications (criteria)**
- **illus.: married couple chose (predetermined) they'd adopt the first three African infants up to age 2**, a certain adoption agency could find for them
  - **the couple adopted the children, no matter their health, history, or background, as long as they had been born in Africa and were no older than 2**
  - **God predetermined**, before creating the world, to adopt everyone in Christ, no matter their health history or background, no matter what they'd done, as long as they were in Christ
    - **not choose which people, but chose the qualifications (criteria)**
- **today, if you are in Christ, you are one of the "chosen" – you've been adopted as God's child**

- **God redeemed us through Christ's blood (redemption)** – grace, mercy, love – spiritual blessings in Christ
  - **Eph. 1:7 redemption** (paid ransom, bought back) **through his blood, forgiveness, riches, grace**
    - **the price paid** for our salvation was **Christ's blood (1 Pet. 1:18-19)**
    - **result is forgiveness**
  - **illus.: you redeem your friend's bracelet**
    - **you have a friend with a bracelet that's stolen** by a bully at school
    - **you find out who the bully is and confront him**, but he **refuses to give it back**
    - **so you buy it from the bully, and return it** to your friend
    - **you redeemed the bracelet** – bought it back
  - **Rom. 3:23 we sold ourselves to sin, Satan** – all sinned
    - **Rom. 6:23 the price due is death** – wages of sin, death
    - **1 Pet. 1:18-19 Jesus paid the price necessary to redeem us, sinless human blood** – propitiation
    - **1 Pet. 2:24** “and He Himself bore our (my) sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”
      - **see Jesus with your sins, on the cross**

- **God gave us an inheritance** – grace, mercy, love – spiritual blessings in Christ
  - **Eph. 1:11 inheritance, predestined according to His purpose** (to accomplish His will)
  - **illus.: Jack Wurm's inheritance**
    - **Columnist L. M. Boyd** described the amazing good fortune of a man named **Jack Wurm**.
    - **In 1949, Jack was broke and out of a job.** One day he was **walking along a San Francisco beach** when he came across a **bottle with a piece of paper in it**
    - As he read the note, he **discovered that it was the last will and testament of Daisy Singer Alexander**, heir to the Singer sewing machine fortune.
    - **The note read**, “To avoid confusion, I **leave my entire estate** to the lucky person who finds this bottle and to my attorney, Barry Cohen, share and share alike.”
    - **According to Boyd, the courts accepted the theory** that the heiress had written the note 12 years earlier, and had thrown the bottle into the Thames River in London, from where it had drifted across the oceans to the feet of a penniless and jobless Jack Wurm. His chance discovery **netted him over 6 million dollars in cash and Singer stock**.
    - **How many of you would like to find a bottle and receive a multi-million dollar inheritance?** all
  - **God's given you an inheritance – eternal life**
    - **God sent His Son, Jesus died** on the cross, made us **joint-heirs** with Him, gave us a **spirit of adoption**, now we cry out **Aba Father**
    - **Thought questions:**
      - **What is the dollar value** of your inheritance? - trillions, quadrillions, quintillions, sextillions, septillions, octillions, more than can be expressed financially
      - **Which inheritance are we often more concerned about?** - inheriting or saving a million \$, or inheriting eternal life
      - **When we truly realize the value of inheriting eternal life**, how does that change our thinking?
        - change our attitude, change the way we live

➤ **God saved us** – grace, mercy, love – spiritual blessings in Christ

- **Eph. 2:4, 5, 6, 8** our salvation

- vs. 4 because of **God's mercy** (outworking of grace) **and love** (agape; Jn. 3:16)

- vs. 5 made us alive together with **Christ**, saved by **grace** (couldn't save ourselves)

- **Col. 2:12-13** baptized, buried, raised up, made alive together with **Christ**, forgiven

- vs. 6 raised us up with Him, seated us with **Christ** in heavenly places (already share in His glory, our citizenship is in heaven)

- vs. 8 saved by **grace**, through **faith**, gift

- **grace**: **God's part** from which comes mercy

- **faith**: **our part**, from which comes obedience

- **Col. 2:12** baptism, raised up, faith working of God

- **gift**: can't earn, but must comply with terms (illus.: Naaman)

- **Eph. 5:23b** Jesus saves those who are in the body

- **Eph. 1:22-23** the **body is the church** - **must be in Jesus' church (body) to be saved**

- **1 Cor. 12:13** baptized into the body – **Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47** baptized, saved, added to church

- **Eph. 6:17a** therefore we wear the helmet of salvation

- **helmet**: worn by Roman soldiers to protect them from an enemy's blows

- **our helmet is salvation**: confidence in our Savior's ability and promise to save us, therefore with confidence we confront every enemy in our path – **illus.: David and Goliath**

➤ **God made us members of His household** – grace, mercy, love – spiritual blessings in Christ

- **Eph. 2:19, 20, 21, 22** God's household – **adopted, God's child, His household**

- vs. 19 **saints** (saved, sanctified), in **God's household**

- vs. 20 **built**, Jesus chief cornerstone

- vs. 21 **holy temple**

- vs. 22 dwelling of God in the Spirit

- **What is God's household?**

- **1 Tim. 3:15** (church) "but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth"

- **The church is a temple, dwelling of God in the Spirit!**

- **1 Cor. 3:16** "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

- **What should our view be toward:**

- our assembly, worship, work

- conduct when assembled, working together as a church

- **The church is composed of Christians, which means our bodies are temples, and God dwells in us, in the Spirit!**

- **1 Cor. 6:19-20** "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

- **What should our view be toward:** - caring for our bodies: conduct, speech, actions, health, clothes

➤ **God strengthens us – helmet of salvation** – grace, mercy, love – spiritual blessings in Christ

- **Eph. 1:18-19** know, the **surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe**

- **God works in our lives**

- **Eph. 3:14-16, 20** God gives us **strengthen**, through **Spirit, inner man**, able to **do more than we ask or think**, according to the **power that works within us**

- **there is never a case when we can't do God's will, in every situation we'll be more than conquerors**

- **Eph. 1:17** empowers us through knowledge, word – **rf - Rom. 1:16**

- **Col. 1:9, 11** knowledge, strengthened

- **Rom. 1:16** the **gospel** (word), **power** of God unto salvation, to everyone who **believes**

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **God's grace, mercy, and love:**

- **predestined** us to adoption

- **redeemed** us through Christ's blood

- gave us an **inheritance**

- **saved** us

- made us members of His **household**

- **strengthens** us

- **prayer of thanks**, acknowledging God's grace, mercy, and love in our lives

- **inv.:** if you're not a child of God, you're not experiencing God's grace, mercy, and love. . . .