Grace is God's freely given <u>loving kindness</u> that <u>rescues</u>, <u>transforms</u>, and <u>enables</u> sinners based on nothing they have done or failed to do.

Do you think of grace as a mostly past, present or future thing? Why do you need grace in all three?

1. Grace enables strength for every need. (12)

What would you say to someone who thinks they can sin all they want because grace covers all their sin? Read Romans 6:1 and Titus 2:11-15 for the answer. What does Grace teach us and enable us to do?

What have you been called to do in service to Jesus that you feel to weak to do? What does God promise to those who attempt things too difficult for themselves?

Have you ever considered whether God has appointed (called or put) you into vocational ministry? Even if you aren't in vocational ministry we are all appointed to serve Jesus. What ministry challenges are you facing for which you need God's grace? Are you exhausted in ministry? Is the remedy rest or grace?

2. Grace transforms my unbelief into faith. (13-14)

Describe your life before you encountered God's grace. What were you ignorant of then that you now see clearly?

Faith is not a fuzzy feeling. It always translates into action. What was your first act of faith? What was your last act of faith?

When the last time you were overwhelmed with the thought that you had been "mercified?" Describe a time in your life when God's grace overflowed to you and responded with deep heartfelt love. How long ago was that? Do you need a fresh sense of how gracious God has been to you?

3. Grace <u>rescues</u> the <u>best</u> and <u>worst</u> of sinners. (15-16)

God rescues the best sinners from their self-righteous motives. God rescues the worst sinners from the worst of their sinful motives. Why could it be harder for a "good" person to be saved than a "bad" person?

Why would Paul call himself the "foremost of sinners" when he was probably a lot better behaved than most?

Often much do you fall into the trap of trying to earn God's favor?

God's grace is unmerited but it is not unconditional. Read James 4:6. To whom does God give His grace? If you want God's grace what do you have to do? What are the evidences of humility before God? What does God do to people who will not humble themselves?

Who is the greatest example of God's perfect patience that you know?

4. The Giver of grace is worthy of my worship. (17)

Paul Tripp says, "We do not rest in the security of or commitment to God, but rather in the grace of an undying, unbroken, undefeated King of the ages. Do you rest in the confident assurance that God's grace will never run out on you? How does this encourage you to keep going when you want to give up?

Do you come to corporate worship engulfed in the thought that you have been made the object of amazing grace? How would it affect the following areas of worship if you did?

- When you get to church
- · Where you sit
- · How you sing
- · How you give
- · How you listen
- · How you respond

Additional Scripture

- Ephesians 2:8-10
- Titus 2:11-15
- James 4:6
- 1Corinthians 15:9-10
- Ephesians 3:8