



MESSAGE OUTLINE

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Living by Grace is the final message in the series: *Let's Break the Rules*.

OBJECTIVE

To conclude this series by underscoring the grace alternative to the burdens of effort, pressure, and frustration of living by rules.

THEME

Living by grace enables us to live the abundant life as talking, feeling, trusting, thinking, choosing, changing people.

REVIEW

Breaking the *don't change* rule is most effectively accomplished when we change from the inside-out.

VIDEO

A brief testimony from Sara of her journey of breaking the rules of her past and coming alive.

DAVID and MEPHIBOSHETH • 2 Samuel 9

King David wants to show grace to any descendant of his deceased friend Jonathan. Mephibosheth, crippled in both feet, is brought out of obscurity to the palace in great fear. David promises Mephibosheth that he can eat at his table the rest of his life, illustrating the "always" duration of God's grace to us.

STORY of DAN'S DAD GOING BLIND

Dan W shares the story of how his Dad made choices to go blind and to suffer with Shingles. His choice was the consequence of a) living by the six rules in this series, and b) living with a very flawed view of grace. This story illustrates the logical outflow of where legalistic Christianity can take us when we make up excuses for not freely accepting God's great grace.

GRACE vs SHAME

Grace-based systems are where people are given regular messages that they are loved and accepted, valuable, and won't face life alone. Relationship is top

priority. *Shame-based systems* are where people are given regular messages that there's something wrong with them because acceptance is based on performance, and they don't perform perfectly. Behaviour is top priority.

COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY • Philippians 3:1-16

The Apostle Paul uses three metaphors in communicating his message that grace plus works equals a counterfeit gospel.

- *Watchman*: We need to guard against the counterfeit Christianity of trying to keep some rules to placate God. God is not impressed.
- *Accountant*: Paul lists his impressive resume. As if working with a spreadsheet, he cuts and pastes his assets into the liabilities column, then lists as his only asset: to know Christ Jesus the Lord.
- *Marathon athlete*: Paul acknowledges he hasn't arrived yet, but he declares his relief that he no longer values his resume. He has one passion and that is to know Jesus and the power of His resurrection.

FENCES and GRACE • Genesis 2:17; 3:3; Matt. 12

Fences are boundaries intended to be protective barriers around God's commands. Fences can be good when they help promote social order and positive habits. Fences are not good when they're inconsistent with Scripture or when they take on a greater focus than our relationship with God and others.

THE DAY GOD RAN • Luke 15:11-32

Jesus tells a story of a prodigal son who wasted his resources and becomes destitute. The son returns to his Dad hoping for employment. Instead, the Dad is determined to throw a feast of celebration for his son.

SUMMARY

Any church that becomes a "just as I am" church, where people can bring their brokenness and be loved with no conditions, with no pretense, this kind of church will not be able to create sufficient room inside the building for all who would want to come.