

# TAKE YOUR STAND

## PART 3: TAKE YOUR STAND BY THE GRACE OF GOD

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### Sermon Notes

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

#### Intro:

Grace is a unique feature in Christian belief

*God loves us because of who God is, not because of who we are.*

Grace: the free and unmerited favour of God

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

#### Paul:

- First introduced in Acts 7 (as Saul)
- Highly educated Rabbi, zealous for Israel
- Persecutor of the Church
- Didn't fit the "mold" of an Apostle

*"by the grace of God I am what I am"*

Ephesians 2:8-9

Grace leaves no room for boasting or judgement, but leaves lots of room for forgiveness and empathy.

"The notion of God's love coming to us free of charge, no strings attached, seems to go against every instinct of humanity. The Buddhist

eight-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, and the Muslim code of law -- each of these offers a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional." ~ Philip Yancey

1 Corinthians 15:10 - Grace doesn't leave us where we are. It transforms us.

#### Conclusion:

Acts 7:60 - Stephen's prayer: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Do you have any friends who are religious but not Christian? What do they believe? What do their beliefs have in common with yours? What are some major differences?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read the account of Saul's conversion (Acts 9:1-9). What stands out to you? Was your conversion anything like this? Why was Paul's so profound?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What does this passage say about grace? How do you understand the concept of grace? Why does grace leave no room for boasting or pride? How does v. 10 relate to v. 8-9?
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer warned Christians about "cheap grace." Cheap grace is grace without effect. It's when we take advantage of God's grace by living however we want, and just expecting God to keep forgiving our unrepentant sin. What's wrong with that? What does a Christian life look like when grace is truly understood?

### Application:

1. Read Acts 7:54-60. How did Stephen show grace to Saul and the other attackers? What situations are you facing in which you can show similar grace?

### Prayer:

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