

03 – 9 EXTREME TEACHINGS OF HYPER-GRACE

- ✓ For the next few minutes, I want to look at nine areas where I believe grace has been taken too far. I'll be quoting from several authors here. My intent isn't to demonize these writers or label anyone as a false teacher. My only motive is to prevent you from accepting a version of grace that's unbiblical.

1. God Is Always Well-Pleased With Me, No Matter what I Do

"Because of Jesus' finished work, we are no longer under the covenant of law where God is happy with you sometimes and angry with you at other times. Today He is always well-pleased with you because of Jesus Christ." (Joseph Prince)

What Does the Bible Say?

2 Cor. 5:9 (Amp) – "We strive earnestly to be well-pleasing to Him." (EHV – "We make it our goal to please Him.")

- ✓ If God is always pleased, then why would Paul have to "strive"? And why would he "make it his goal", if it's guaranteed anyway?

1 Thess. 4:1 (NIV) – "Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God."

- ✓ Evidently, pleasing God has to do with *how you live*. The Truth Is: You always have the Father's love, and you're always accepted by Him. But it's possible that some of your actions and attitudes (at times) *aren't* pleasing to Him.

2. Sin Doesn't Disrupt My Fellowship With God

"I was taught by religion that the moment you get angry or fail, you are out of fellowship with God ... But I know the truth today: I know that even when I fail, God and I are still 'tight' (we are still 'cool', you know what I mean?) ... Our fellowship is not broken ..." (Joseph Prince)

"You are in fellowship with God all the time. Your perception of that may change but remember: Your feelings are not the standard of truth. I assure you: The idea that we're out of fellowship with God when we do wrong is a lie ... It's one of those clichés. It sounds good, but it's not biblical. There is nothing you can do to put yourself out of fellowship with God." (Steve McVey)

What Does the Bible Say?

- ✓ 1 John 1:6 (EXB, Phillips) – "If we say we have fellowship with God but continue living in darkness, we are both telling and living a lie."

3. Nothing Bad Will Happen as a Result of My Sin

"Don't allow anyone to tell you that something negative has happened to you or will happen to you because of your sins. Reject such bad news in the name of Jesus." (Joseph Prince)

What Does the Bible Say?

- ✓ Gal. 6:7-8 (AmpC) – "Do not be deceived and deluded and misled; God will not allow Himself to be mocked. For whatever a man sows, that and that only, is what he will reap. For he who sows to his flesh will from the flesh reap decay, and ruin, and destruction ..."

4. The Holy Spirit Will Never Convict Me

"Many a time, believers under condemnation would even think that it is the Holy Spirit convicting them of their sins and pointing out their faults ... But, Pastor Prince, how can I differentiate between the Holy Spirit convicting me of sin and the accuser hurling condemnation at me? That is a very good question, and the answer is very simple. Now, pay attention to this because it will liberate you. The bottom line is that the Holy Spirit never convicts you of your sins. He NEVER comes to point out your faults." (Joseph Prince)

- ✓ He said two things there: He never convicts, and He never points out your faults. He never points out your faults? **What about Jesus' messages to the 7 churches** (Rev. 2:4,14,20; 3:2,16)? Who was behind that correction? "He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (So, the Holy Spirit *does* correct!)
- ✓ In extreme grace theology, pointing out your shortcomings isn't grace. But, in Biblical theology, pointing them out is an act of love (Heb. 12:6). It's a demonstration of love because it brings to your attention, something that will eventually hurt you.
- ✓ This same pastor goes on to say, "Because of His finished work at the cross, **Jesus will never rebuke you.**" But the real Jesus says, "**As many as I love I rebuke** and chasten ..." (Rev. 3:19). To Jesus, correction is an act of love.

5. I Should Stop Examining Myself & God Will Never Examine Me

"Stop examining yourself and searching your heart for sin ... When you go to Him today, God does not examine you." (Joseph Prince)

What Does the Bible Say?

- ✓ 1 Cor. 11:28 – "But let a man **examine himself** ..."
- ✓ 2 Cor. 13:5 – "**Examine yourselves** to see if you're in the faith ..."
- ✓ 1 Thess. 2:4 (Amp) – "We speak, not to please men, but to please **God who examines our hearts.**"

6. I Shouldn't Feel Any Sorrow for My Sin

"Many have the impression that repentance is something that involves mourning and sorrow. However, that is not what the word of God says." (Joseph Prince)

What Does the Bible Say?

2 Cor. 7:9-10 (EHV) – "Now I rejoice, not because you felt sorrow, but

because this sorrow resulted in repentance. Godly sorrow produces repentance."

James 4:9-10 – "**Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep:** let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

7. I Shouldn't Confess My Sin to God

"Do you know that there is no Scripture under the New Covenant that commands born-again believers to confess their sins, repent of them, or even ask God to forgive them?" (Ryan Rufus)

"As a New Covenant, born-again believer, to go and ask God for forgiveness after you have sinned, is in fact, a sin! ... if you do sin, don't start asking God for forgiveness. Don't start confessing that sin and repenting of that sin." (Ryan Rufus)

- ✓ Hyper-grace teachers say that 1 John 1:9 was written to unbelievers, but that's easily disproven by 2:1,7,12. John calls his audience "little children" and "brethren", and says their sins are forgiven. Plus, he said, "if WE confess OUR sin ..." That *has* to be Christians!

8. I Can Walk in Willful Sin and Still Enjoy all of God's Blessings

"If being blessed by God today is dependent on your actions, then there would be no difference between being under the old covenant of law and being under the new covenant of grace ... In this covenant, we are blessed not because we are good or because we do good. To put it simply, we are blessed because Jesus is good." (Joseph Prince)

What Does the Bible Say?

1 John 3:22 – "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

9. I Don't Need to Change My Behavior

“According to **the legalist's model of repentance**, sin is taken care of by feeling badly about it, confessing it to God, asking His forgiveness, and repenting, **turning away, from it.**” (Joseph Prince)

“What does God expect us to do? The answer may surprise you. Nothing! Why? Because God realizes we're incapable of doing anything on our own. ‘Don't you think’, people ask in exasperation, ‘that, at the least, God expects us to do the right thing?’ ... **That question implies that the main concern God has for you is that you live a moral life – and nothing could be further from the truth.** That's the big thing in religion, but it's not what God is focused on ...” (Steve McVey)

“Listen, **Jesus did not die to modify your behavior!** Religion—not real Christianity—is and always has been in the behavior modification and sin management business. It is so lucrative and so firmly entrenched in the Church that it will take a second Great Reformation ... to correct this spiritually murderous lie ... **Sin cannot be managed.**” (Clark Whitten)

What Does the Bible Say?

Eph. 4:31 (NLT) – “**Get rid of** all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as **all types of evil behavior.**” (Rom. 12:2a NLT, 1 Pet. 2:1)

- ✓ Look at those nine (hyper-grace) points again. Would you say those things to your kids when *they* do wrong?
 - “Don't examine yourself”, “Don't feel remorse”, “Don't say you're sorry”, “Don't change your behavior”, “Believe that there are no consequences for your actions”, “Keep expecting everyone to bless you”? What kind of kids would you produce?
- ✓ You know what's missing in all this “grace” teaching? The realization that *my* sin hurts *others*. (Did you notice that not one of these hyper-grace quotes considered anyone else? It's all about *me*. Sin doesn't break *my* fellowship. *I* don't have to feel bad. *I* don't have to ask for forgiveness. There won't be any consequences for *me*.” (What about the people your sin hurts? For that reason alone, sin should be managed.)