

GRACE

Luke 15:11-32

Identity, 3



Grace is at the heart of everything we do at Trinity Chapel. Grace shapes everything we do. Anyone who has talked with Ted about his passion for TCBC knows that grace is at the heart of it. We have developed an atmosphere of love and acceptance for everyone coming to Trinity, because we are acutely aware of our own need for grace and the privilege we have of sharing that same grace with others. Being part of the community occurring in Community Groups allows you to experience and share that same grace.

Let's talk about forgiveness. It is at the heart of our relationship with God. We entered our relationship with Him when we acknowledged our sin, our need for forgiveness, and our total reliance upon Him for acceptance. Forgiveness is also a constant need we have in maintaining our relationship with Him. The same dynamic exists in all of our relationships.

Read C.S. Lewis's quote and share answers to the following questions.

"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive."

Share definitions of forgiveness. What does it look like?

How hard or easy is it for you to ask for forgiveness?

How hard or easy is it for you to extend forgiveness?

How does experiencing forgiveness help you do the same?

Review

Our mission – to magnify the name of Jesus as we . . . learn, live, love.

Our values – God-exalting & Truth-centered

Being "grace-filled" is a desire to be the restoring presence of Christ to others.

Being "grace-filled" requires grasping the way that we've been shown grace. Ephesians 4:32

How have we been shown grace? Luke 15:11-32

His response is emotional.

His response is unconditional.

His response is quick.

His response is generous.

What is the context for this story (vv. 1-10)?

What concerns is Jesus responding to with this story?

What stands out to you in the story?

Have you ever been in a situation similar to this? Describe it.

The response of the older brother is contrasted with that of the Father.

He believed acceptance should be based upon works.

He believed love should be withheld from the "undeserving."

What attitudes does the older brother represent?

How can you relate to the older brother's feelings?

Why doesn't Luke tell us how the older brother responded?

With whom do you feel like the older brother?

Showing grace means that we . . .

Embrace God's grace in our lives.

Reflect that grace to others as we . . .

See people and understand them.

Seek to bring healing rather than react.

Share our resources.

Think about the ways God has forgiven you. Has receiving God's forgiveness enabled you to forgive others? Why or why not?

Why is it so hard to truly forgive other people?

In which of your relationships do you need to show grace? How?

Application

What would you say if someone asked what was the most interesting idea, concept, or principle from this week's sermon?

What will you do with this idea, concept, or principle this week? Ask the Spirit to bring it to mind and help you apply it.

Prayer

We have many people in our body who are hurting and in need of grace. Please pray for healing, comfort, and love for them. Pray for the people in your sphere of influence. Ask the Father to show you who you can reach out to with grace and love. Thank Him for forgiving us and constantly showering us with his grace.