

GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Grace Changes Everything – Week 1 Galatians 1:1-9

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) The Book of Galatians by Kyle Idleman ----- <https://bit.ly/3KE1TCC>

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW

Paul's letter to the Galatians begins with grace and immediately confronts a crisis—the Galatian believers were abandoning the gospel of grace for a different message. Before we dive into the theological depth of this passage, let's discuss our own experiences with grace in our own lives.

- Think of a time when someone showed you grace—when you didn't deserve kindness or a second chance, but received it anyway. What did that feel like, and how did it affect your relationship with that person?
- On a scale of 1-10, how much of your spiritual life feels like "striving to earn" versus "resting in what's been given"? What in your life right now makes it hard to simply receive grace? When you first heard about God's grace as a Christian concept, what was your initial reaction? Confusion? Relief? Skepticism? How has your understanding grown since then?
- Think about the different areas of your life—work, family, friendships, church. Where do you feel the most pressure to perform or measure up? How does that pressure affect the way you relate to God?
- What's the most meaningful gift you've ever received that you did absolutely nothing to deserve? How did receiving that gift without earning it make you feel about the giver? How would you describe the spiritual environment you grew up in—was it more focused on rules and dos/don'ts, or on relationship and grace? How has that shaped the way you approach God today?
- When you think about God's view of you, do you tend to imagine Him as disappointed and waiting for you to do better, or as delighted and accepting of you in Christ? What influences that perspective?
- Looking back over your journey with Jesus, what's one significant way your understanding of God's grace has deepened or changed? What caused that shift in perspective?



Paul's opening verses waste no time with pleasantries—he moves immediately from his greeting of "grace and peace" to express astonishment that the Galatians are deserting the gospel. In verses 1-9, we find the core DNA of the Christian faith: grace is the sovereign love of God demonstrated in the redeeming acts of Jesus Christ.

- **Galatians 1:1-5:** Paul opens with "grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (v.3). Why do you think Paul always begins his letters this way? What's the connection between grace and peace? Romans 5:1-2. *Tim Keller writes: "The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."*
- **Galatians 1:4:** Paul says Jesus "gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age." How does grace deliver us from the "present evil age" in practical, everyday ways? What does this deliverance look like in your life right now? 2 Corinthians 5:17. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer warned: "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." (The Cost of Discipleship)*
- **Galatians 1:6-7:** Paul expresses shock: "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel." The Galatians were adding requirements to grace (Jesus + circumcision + Jewish law). What are some subtle ways our hearts "drift away from the gospel" even as believers? What modern equivalents do we tend to add to the equation: "Jesus + _____"? (Consider: moral performance, political positions, cultural conformity, etc.). Hebrews 2:1, Colossians 2:20-23.
- **Galatians 1:6-9:** Why do you think grace is so countercultural? How does our society, workplace, or even church culture sometimes resist the radical nature of free grace? *Supporting Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23. *C.S. Lewis noted: "Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms... This process will be long and in parts very painful; but that is what we are in for. Nothing less."*
- **Galatians 1:8-9:** Paul pronounces a severe warning against those who preach "a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you." How do we discern between true grace and false teachings about grace? What are the marks of authentic grace? Titus 2:11-12



Understanding grace intellectually is one thing; living in the freedom and power of grace is another. As James reminds us, we must be "doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

- Think of your worst day and Jesus catches you in it—how you feel in that moment is likely how you view grace." Take time this week to honestly assess: Do you believe grace is enough for you on your worst day?
- What are you're tempted to add to Jesus? Complete this honestly: "Deep down, I sometimes believe Jesus + _____ will make me acceptable to God."