

# Questions for Grace Week 1

- How often do you use the word grace or one of its forms? For example: “Be gracious”, “She is so graceful”, “We need to say grace before we eat.”
  - We use the words a lot but have you ever thought about the meaning of the words?
  - What does grace mean?
- Has God’s grace ever bowled you over?
  - I mean, for how loving God really is, how patient He really is, how He lavishes His love on you time and again, how does that make you feel when you stop to think of it?
  - Now, how do you feel when you see God lavish His grace on others - people you might not consider worthy, or worse, people that frustrate you, or have hurt you?
    - While this is a hypothetical situation, how would you feel if Adolf Hitler, or Saddam Husain repented of their sins, and trusted Christ before their deaths?
    - Is God too gracious to accept someone that committed such atrocities?
    - Would you agree that God’s grace is always a welcome thing for us, but sometimes a frustrating thing, depending on who God is being gracious too?
- Pastor Keith used the term coined by John Calvin: gratuitous grace. What do you think of the word gratuitous as a description for grace?
- Robert Capon wrote, “[The world] will buy any recipe for salvation as long as that formula leaves the responsibility for salvation firmly in human hands.” Agree or disagree? Why? Do you ever find this true about yourself?
- Pastor Keith gave us three different words that the Bible uses for grace.
  - Henna (OT) - favor of a superior to an inferior
  - Heseb (OT) - God’s one-way love, mercy and compassion
  - Charis (NT) - God’s goodness, kindness, mercy and compassion to His people without regard to their actions
- When we use the word grace today, do we ever think of it like the favor of a superior to an inferior?
  - Does that definition bother you at all?
  - How does that definition shed light on how we use the term grace in the phrase, “Let us say grace?”
- A covenant is a special promise that you fulfill without conditions. How does the definition of heseb and the idea of a covenant relationship work together?
  - God, in His grace entered into a covenant relationship with His people. He fulfills His promise regardless of what we do, simply because He promised. What does that do for our confidence in God’s love and faithfulness?
- How does grace work itself out in relationships? What factors have to be present for grace to exist?