

“CONNECT-OLGY!”

Mark 2:13-17

Most of us prefer order to disorder in life. We prefer a daily schedule that follows a predictable pattern. We prefer homes that are free from chaos. Our preference for order can even impact our treatment of others. Yet, grace interrupts our natural tendencies. Today, we uncover three principles that help us see how grace impacts our relationships.

1. Grace Impacts Our Access To God

“For the generations to come none of your descendants who have a defect may come near to offer the food of his God. No man who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed...” Lev. 21:17-20a

“Since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:14,16

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith...” Hebrews 10:19-22a

2. Grace Impacts Our Acceptance Of Others

“While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and ‘sinners’ were eating with Him and His disciples, for there were many who followed Him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Him eating with the ‘sinners’ and tax collectors, they asked His disciples: ‘Why does He eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners?’ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’” Mark 2:15-17

Luke 8 – A Gentile, a sick woman and a corpse

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”
Romans 15:7

3. Grace Impacts Our Ability To Express Unity

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one - as You

are in Me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in us so that the world will believe You sent Me.” John 17:20-21, NLT

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

CONCLUSION

- How is grace demonstrated in my relationships?

PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE:

What’s So Amazing About Grace? By Philip Yancey

In the Grip of Grace by Max Lucado

“God’s Multicultural Church” by Ray Pritchard