

God's Grace

Religion vs. Relationship with Christ: What are some differences between Religion and a Relationship with Christ?

Religion:

- Duty
- Burden
- Joyless
- Ritual
- Fear-driven

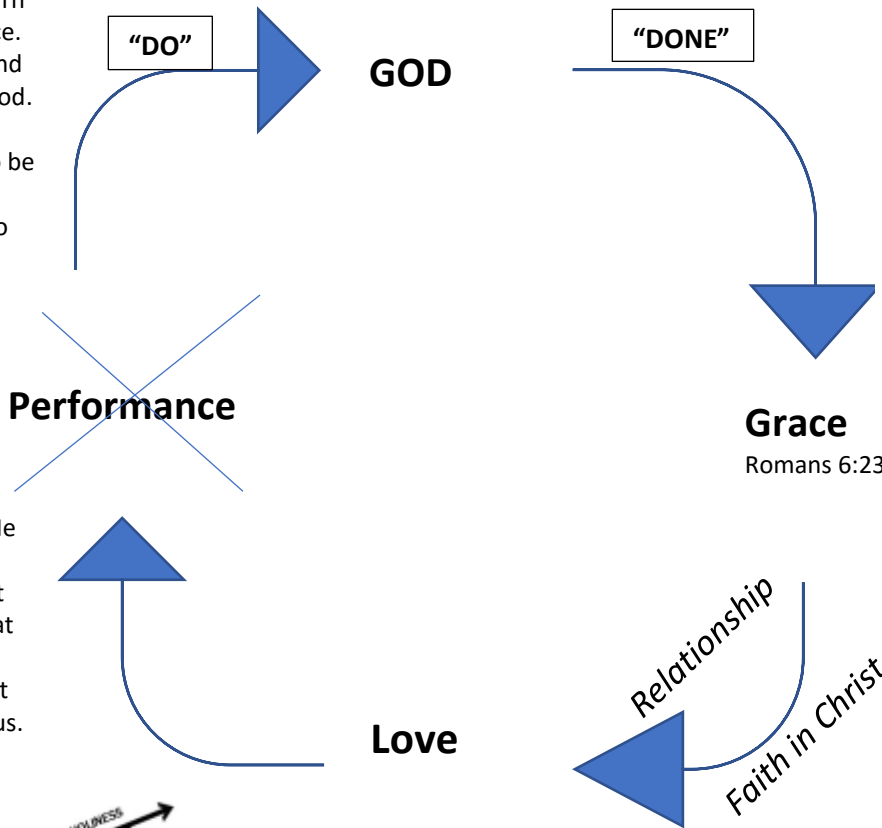
Relationship:

- Delight
- Desire
- Joyful
- Beautiful
- Love-driven

GRACE WHEEL

Self/ Active

Righteousness: These are all things that we do to earn God's Love and acceptance. Romans 3:23- we all sin and fall short of the glory of God. We do this on our self-righteousness by trying to be as good as we can in performance and deeds to earn His Love.



Declarative/Passive

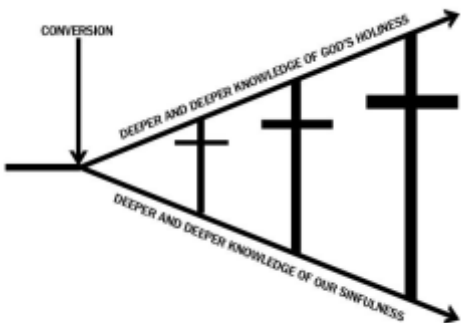
Righteousness: 2 Cor 5:21- it is not because of what we do that we deserve God's grace but it is a free gift that He has blessed us with through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

God's Riches	
At Christ's Expense.	<i>Example: Test Analogy</i>

At what point does Jesus' death cover your sin personally?
Example: Grand Canyon Analogy

Obedience

We obey God because He loves us not because of anything that we do, but because of His Grace that He pours out on us! We desire to honor and trust that His plan is best for us.



Explanation of diagram: After accepting Christ we become more and more aware of our sinful nature as we grow closer and closer to God. This awareness of the large gap between how sinful we are and how righteous and holy God is exposes His great love for us.

Analogies

Test Analogy: Say a student signs up for an advanced, super hard class but never shows up, doesn't have any of the notes, and doesn't do any work at all for the class. It comes to the day of the final and he shows up to class to take it and only writes his name on the paper because he doesn't know how to answer any of the questions. When he gets the final back, the professor gives him a 100%. He is confused at how he got a 100% for what he had done, but it wasn't what the student had done but what the professor did. That is like God's mercy & His Grace.

Grand Canyon Analogy: You watch this guy walk across a tight rope between the Grand Canyon multiple times and you are impressed. You start to trust the fact that he can make it back and forth. Then he successfully walks back and forth with a wheelbarrow with no problem. Next, he puts someone in the wheelbarrow and successfully makes it across. At this point you are texting people and snapchatting pics of this guy doing this. Then he asks you to trust him and get in the wheelbarrow. This is what it looks like to put your faith in Christ and trust Him with your whole life.

Summary

Ephesians 2:1-10 (read scripture section by section)

- 1-3: DEAD
 - How much can a dead person do?
 - If we are dead in our sins does that mean that anything we do, on our own strength, doesn't help us acquire our salvation?
- 4: ALIVE
 - What is the difference between mercy and grace?
 - MERCY- God not giving us what we deserve
 - GRACE- God giving us what we don't deserve (blessing us despite the fact that we don't deserve his favor)
- 5-9: GRACE
 - Why is it so hard for humans to understand or fully comprehend grace?
 - How can grace be a game changer in the lives of people?
- 10: GOOD WORKS
 - How does this good news make us different from other religions?