



Many men try to hide and pretend they are not broken. But this only leads to more hiding, pretending, and despair—and nothing ever changes. We fear that God is almost never pleased. This study will lead us into the light between two very different underlying motives: our determination to please God or to trust him. One results in a striving that never feels it has done enough to please him. The other results in a trust that experiences his full pleasure. Our motives as Jesus followers will either keep us enslaved in our hiding or free us into God's Adventure for our lives. Let's discover the Open Road of Grace together!

Ride ON!

GRACE WORKS

Galatians 5:1 Romans 5:20, 21 Ephesians 2:8-10

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

**FREE TO BE A MAN
 TAKE THE MASK OFF AND WALK THE OPEN ROAD OF GRACE!**

July 21, 2022

Bible Verses: Romans 5:20, 21; Ephesians 2:8-10; I Peter 5:4-7; II Cor 12:7-10; Heb 4:14-16; John 1:14-18; John 13:34, 35; I Timothy 3:1-7

Music: Amazing Grace Makes Baby Cry
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPcqMGdwd_0

Resources: *TrueFaced – Trust God and Others with Who You Really Are* by Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and John Lynch.
The Cure: What If God Isn't Who You Think He Is and Neither Are You? By Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, and John Lynch.
Video: Amazing Grace: The Tale of John Newton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXpr8g3w4Ro>

TAKE THE MASK OFF – GRACE WORKS

1. _____ → These 5 truths of grace give us lasting answers for resolving our sin issues (I Peter 5:5,6):
 1. Humility attracts grace.
 2. Grace changes my life focus.
 3. Grace lets God handle sin.
 4. Grace melts masks.
 5. Grace changes how we treat each other and our sin issues.

2. _____ → We define humility as trusting God and others with me. Therefore, if a community lacks grace, that community is low on trust. Pride shuts down grace. The environment of grace provides me with truth, acceptance, healing, safety, perspective, freedom, and power that I did not before know. These realities are foundational to resolving my sin issues (II Cor. 12:9,10).

3. _____ → Trusting who God says I am lays the foundation for maturity. How I view myself is the most revealing commentary of my theology. Striving leaves us dysfunctional and immature because it creates hiddenness. Grace creates authenticity. Authenticity melts masks (Heb. 4:16; John 1:14-18).

4. _____ → Safety, protection, and love characterize relationships in The Room of Grace, rather than mistrust, deceit, and guardedness. We stand in front of each other, true-faced. We need to see one another as saints who sin, rather than as sinners who are saved (John 13:34,35).

5. _____ → God's final objective for us is not resolving sin or "getting well." God's ultimate goal is maturing us into who he says we are and releasing us into the dreams he designed for us before the world began. God carefully designed his "influence system" so that we would have to influence far more our of who we are than what we do (I Tim. 3:1-7).

ACTION: Journal This!

1. What is the story of your own deepest trauma and sadness from guilt or hurt?
2. Who are you in God's eyes?
3. What sin issue holds you back from your journey of maturity?

"Amazing Grace" by John Newton

Amazing grace
 How sweet the sound
 That saved a wretch like me
 I once was lost, but now I'm found
 Was blind, but now I see
 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 And grace my fears relieved
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
 I have already come;
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
 And grace will lead me home.
 The Lord has promised good to me,
 His Word my hope secures;
 He will my Shield and Portion be,
 As long as life endures.
 Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
 And mortal life shall cease,

I shall possess, within the veil,
 A life of joy and peace.
 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
 The sun forbear to shine;
 But God, who called me here below,
 Will be forever mine.
 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.

Bible Verses – The Message

Romans 5:20, 21- 20 All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn't, and doesn't, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call *grace*. When it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. **21** All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that's the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.

Ephesians 2:8-10- 8 Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! **9** We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! **10** No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

I Peter 5:4-7 – 4 When God, who is the best shepherd of all, comes out in the open with his rule, he'll see that you've done it right and commend you lavishly. **5** And you who are younger must follow your leaders. But all of you, leaders and followers alike, are to be down to earth with each other, for - God has had it with the proud, But takes delight in just plain people. **6** So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time. **7** Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you.

II Cor 12:7-10 – 7 Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! **8** At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, **9** and then he told me, My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness. Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. **10** Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size - abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

Heb 4:14-16 – 14 Now that we know what we have - Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God - let's not let it slip through our fingers. **15** We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all - all but the sin. **16** So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help.

John 1:14-18 – 14 The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. **15** John pointed him out and called, "This is the One! The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me. He has always been ahead of me, has always had the first word." **16** We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift. **17** We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding - all this came through Jesus, the Messiah. **18** No one has ever seen God, not so much as a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-Expression, who exists at the very heart of the Father, has made him plain as day. Thunder in the Desert

John 13:34, 35 – 34 "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. **35** This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples - when they see the love you have for each other."

I Timothy 3:1-7 – 1 If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good! **2** But there are preconditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. He must know what he's talking about, **3** not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry. **4** He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect. **5** For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God's church? **6** He must not be a new believer, lest the position go to his head and the Devil trip him up. **7** Outsiders must think well of him, or else the Devil will figure out a way to lure him into his trap.

Philip K. Hardin, M.A., M.Div.

Director of Business & Professional Outreach, Intl. - Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Certified Life Coach
563 Johnson Avenue – Fairhope, Alabama 36532
Phone: 601-925-0707

Email: phil@bpointl.org

Webpage: www.bpointl.org