



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!

**GIFT OF GRACE: LOVE**

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

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable  
[www.MensTable.com](http://www.MensTable.com)

**FREE TO BE A MAN**

July 28, 2022

**TAKE THE MASK OFF AND WALK THE OPEN ROAD OF GRACE!**

**Bible Verses:** Romans 5:20, 21; Ephesians 2:8-10; I John 4:19; Ephesians 5:18-21

**Music:** Randy Travis sings 'Amazing Grace' at George Jones' funeral <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQO1t01htHl>

**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 Madagascar  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yrYeIHBfLk>

**TAKE THE MASK OFF – GIFT OF GRACE: LOVE**

When you enter *The Room of Grace*, Jesus has some gifts for you. For every issue, every unresolved sin, every wound, God has created a gift specifically to meet that need, resolve that sin, and heal that wound. In God's world, receiving love comes *before* love (I John 4:19). When we are ready to receive love, we will know, because we will begin to experience a process with the following steps:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ → I understand that I have needs. A need is something required and indispensable—a must. We often overlook or avoid the basic requirements for our health and maturity—our needs. We may see our needs as weakness. If we see our needs and limitations as weakness, we will hide our needs and call it self-reliance, or independence, or over-spiritualize and call it maturity.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → I realize that having my needs met is experiencing love. Without needs we cannot experience love—we cannot know when we are being loved. Every day we need to be loved. Every day God is committed to meeting our needs for attention (John 13:5-20), acceptance (Rom. 5:5-8), security (Zeph. 3:17), trust (Lam. 3:32-33), truth (Heb. 6:18), protection (Hos. 11:1-12), significance (I Tim. 1:12). If we cannot identify our needs, we cannot know love.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ → I freely admit that I desire to be loved. Many of us have spent years perfecting our self-protection routines. We have carefully, stone by stone, erected a drafty castle that we thought would safeguard us from the pain of broken relationships. Our only companions become Shame, Blame, Fear, Denial, and Anger.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ → I choose to let you love me. We cannot let another person love us unless we trust the person (I Sam. 18-19). Grace, when it is conceived in trust, brings about astonishing resolution, healing, maturity, and powerful influence.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ → I let you love me—on your terms, not mine. Humility is required. Learning to let others love us on their terms is part of what it means to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:18-21). They will not do it perfectly. Learning to love perfectly or trust perfectly is not the point; rather, it's learning to receive love, and that requires *humility*.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ → I am fulfilled when I experienced love. Trusting God leads us into The Room of Grace where we gradually receive the supreme gift of grace—love. When we are loved, we feel fulfilled.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ → I am now able to love others out of my own fulfillment. To fulfill means “to meet the requirements of, to satisfy.” This fulfillment produces inward peace, contentment, and healing for our wounds and FREES US TO LOVE OTHERS.

**ACTION: Journal This!**

1. What NEEDS do you have today?
2. What is a recent EXPERIENCE of love?
3. What relationship needs repaired?

**“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 John 4:19 - 19** We, though, are going to love - love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

**Ephesians 5:18-21 - 18** Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him. **19** Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. **20** Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ. **21** Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another.

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