



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!

THE MOST MYSTERIOUS GIFT OF GRACE: FORGIVENESS

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

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

FREE TO BE A MAN

September 08, 2022

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

Bible Verses: Galatians 5:1; Romans 5:20, 21; Ephesians 2:8-10; I Peter 1:7,8; Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 6:12-15
Music: Chris Tomlin - Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-4NFv15U9w>

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: A Clip from Amazing Grace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uss1TwBeB7I>

TAKE THE MASK OFF – MYSTERIOUS GIFT OF GRACE: FORGIVENESS – I Peter 1:7-8).

- _____ → The powerful gift of forgiveness has one main purpose: to protect us from the insidious harm that comes from *sin done against us*.
- _____ → God's provision for our healing always begins with our recognition that someone has sinned against us.
- _____ → When we forgive that offender for his sake, it prepares the way for the relationship to be restored.
- _____ → Forgiveness carries the hope of renewed trust in the relationship, but it does not mandate or guarantee it. Forgiving and trusting are not the same thing.
- _____ → Grace always invites rather than demands reconciliation.

TAKE THE MASK OFF – MYSTERIOUS GIFT OF GRACE: FORGIVENESS

KEYS TO FORGIVENESS:

- _____ → Admit something happened.
- _____ → Forgive the consequences of the act done against you.
- _____ → Tell God what happened to you.
- _____ → Forgive the Offender for your benefit (Eph. 4:32; Matthew 6:12-15).
- _____ → Forgive the Offender when they repent, for their sake.
- _____ → Distinguish between forgiving and trusting your offender.
- _____ → Seek Reconciliation, not just conflict resolution.

ACTION: Journal This!

- What has been your most profound experience with FORGIVENESS?
- Who is an example of "aggressive forgiveness?"
- To whom do you need to FORGIVE?

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" By Chris Tomlin

<p align="center">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</p> <p>'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed</p>	<p align="center">My chains are gone I've been set free My God, my Savior has ransomed me And like a flood His mercy reigns Unending love, amazing grace</p> <p>The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures</p>	<p align="center">[2x] My chains are gone I've been set free My God, my Savior has ransomed me And like a flood His mercy reigns Unending love, amazing grace</p> <p>The earth shall soon dissolve like snow The sun forbear to shine But God, Who called me here below, Will be forever mine. Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.</p>
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Bible Verses – The Message

<p>Galatians 5:1 - 1 Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.</p> <p>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 <i>grace</i>. When it's sin versus <i>grace</i>, <i>grace</i> 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>I Peter 1:7,8 - 7 Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory. 8 You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him - with laughter and singing.</p> <p>Ephesians 4:32 - 32 Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.</p> <p>Matthew 6:12-15 - 12 Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. 13 Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes. 14 "In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. 15 If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.</p>
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