

## The Intersection of Grace & Worship

(Story) One Day in Prayer...

Today I want to talk to you about the intersection of Grace & Worship.

### Intersection of Grace & Worship

Important to understand Grace & Worship.

Important to operate in Grace & Worship.

### What is grace?

I grew up with this church definition – Unmerited Favor.

Grace is giving something good to someone who doesn't deserve something good.

Grace is receiving something good when we don't deserve it.

God gives us grace.

Every interaction with us has been through His Grace.

Without Grace – we would die.

It is why a Holy God interacts with us through Jesus Christ.

John 1:14 (NIV2011) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Romans 6:23 (NIV2011) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As sinners we deserve death... but Grace gives us what we don't deserve.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV2011) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV2011) Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

John 3:16 (NIV2011) For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

When I said in my prayer "God I give you grace..." everything halted because that is not true.

Grace is giving a good gift to someone that has NOT earned a good gift.

When I said "God I give you grace..." I was really saying "God I give you something good that you have not earned."

### You can't give God Grace

In years here at Bright City Ministries we have given God a lot

But one thing we have never given God is grace.

We have never come with a good gift and given it to God and He, not deserve it.

## **God deserves it all!**

You have never given him praise that He was not worthy of...

You have never given him an offering that was more than His worth...

You have never given God something that was above and beyond His greatness...

Every Hallelujah... Every joyful noise... Every song...

## **Grace is a one way street.**

God can give you grace, but you cannot give God grace.

It is impossible for you to give grace directly to God...

God gives us grace... We can't give God grace... so what should we give the Lord?

## **We give Worship & Praise**

**Worship is an attempt to give God a gift that matches his worth.**

**Praise is an attempt to give God a gift that matches his grace/the gifts He gives.**

Worship focuses on WHO HE IS.

Praise focuses on WHAT HE DOES.

We can't God grace, so we give God worship & praise.

Psalm 29:1-2 (NIV2011) A psalm of David. Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

Psalm 150:1-2 (KJV) Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise & Worship is an attempt to give God a gift that matches His worth and the worth of His gifts.

Not about how you feel...

Not about your preferred musical style...

Not about the decor of the room...

Not about what you might receive in return...

“What is wrong with these people?”

Praise & worship is a challenge...

Will you praise God at the same level and value as the gifts & blessings He has given you? We might have to praise Him at a higher level...

Will you worship God at the same level of HIS VALUE? We might need to worship at a higher level.

What if your personal praise defined your feelings, thoughts, and thankfulness for all of God's blessings?

IT DOES! Has God been good to you? Then Praise Him! And praise Him at the level of His goodness toward you.

What if your personal worship defined your feelings & thoughts about God?

IT DOES! Is God good? Is God worthy? Is God beautiful & glorious? Then Worship Him! And worship at the level of his greatness.

In Luke 10, Jesus was asked "what does God really want... Of all the commandments, which one is the most important." Jesus said...

Luke 10:27 (NIV2011) He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

Do you love the Lord your God today?

Have you kept this most important command today?

I have never kept this commandment.

All my heart...?

All my soul...?

All my strength...?

All my mind...?

Praising & Worship is the challenge of a lifetime...

We should NEVER gather together and give God praise & worship that is bland, vapid, anemic, lifeless, commonplace, weak, wishy-washy...

Is your God bland? What does your praise say...?

Are God's gifts to you weak? What does your worship say...?

**Grace is where God gives you everything you don't deserve.**

**Worship is where you attempt to give God everything He deserves.**

Grace is a one way street...

Worship is a one way street...

**Worship is a one way street**

God doesn't worship us... and that is a good thing. ...Because worship is giving what someone is deserving of...

If God Gave me everything I was deserving of.. I would be dead. The wages of sin is death...

Instead of giving us worship, what we are deserving of... God chooses to give us grace.

**Intersection of Grace & Worship**

Today we stand at the intersection of Grace & Worship.

We stand in a place where God continually gives us what we could never earn...

We stand in a place where we try to Give God everything He is worthy of.

If we would receive ALL God has for us... We would be changed forever.

If we worshipped and praised God at the level of His worth... we would never be the same.

Transformation is here...

BUT FIRST A CORRECTION.

## MUSICIANS

### You can't give God Grace

There is only 1 way to give God grace...

The only way you could ever give grace to God, would be to give it to someone else...

Matthew 25:40 (NIV2011) "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Church we ought to be graceful to one another... It is the only way you could ever give grace to God.

How do we use this info?

#### Call to action

##### 1. Are you operating in Grace?

-Receiving Grace

-Giving Grace to others

##### 2. Are you up to the challenge of Worship & Praise?

-All your heart, mind, soul, strength

##### 3. "I NEED GRACE" – Come pray!