A person with dark curly hair and hoop earrings, wearing a red, white, and blue plaid shirt, holds a rectangular piece of brown cardboard. The cardboard has the words "Grace Found Me" written on it in a thick, black, brush-stroke style font. The person is standing in front of a brick wall with light-colored mortar. The image has a dark, vignetted border.

Grace  
Found  
Me

# What is grace?

Greek **χάρις** *charis*

Grace may be defined as the unmerited or undeserving favor of God to those who are under condemnation.

– Paul Enns

In the New Testament, “grace” (mentioned 156 times) takes on a special redemptive sense in which God makes available His favor on behalf of sinners, who actually do not deserve it. – Wayne Jackson

# Book of Galatians

# Introduction to Galatians

- Epistle (a circular letter) written by the Apostle Paul
- Original recipients were “the churches in Galatia” (1:2) which had been founded during the first missionary journey of Paul.
- Galatia was a region of cities in southern Asia Minor where the Gauls (Celtic people from the British Isles) had settled after migrating from western Europe through Italy and Greece.
- Region included the cities of Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, located in modern Turkey.
- Paul and Barnabas visited these cities on Paul’s first missionary journey.



Letter  
written by  
Paul from  
Antioch of  
Syria in  
about 48-50  
AD



# Galatians 5:16-26

Last week...

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision  
nor uncircumcision means anything, but  
**faith working through love**. Galatians 5:6

ἀγάπη agape

Remember - Man sees actions, God sees hearts

# Question for Today

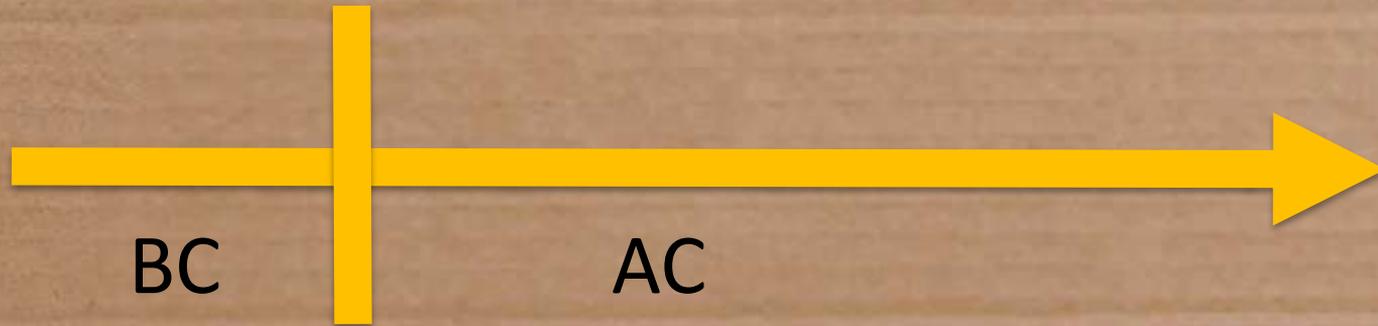
How does a disciple of Jesus live when their daily walk is motivated by and guided by agape love?

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Galatians 5:16-18

The verb *peripateite* is a present imperative and is literally translated, “keep on walking.” As a believer walks through life he should depend on the indwelling Holy Spirit for guidance and power. The Spirit does not operate automatically in a believer’s heart. He waits to be depended on. Each Christian has two natures, a sinful nature received at birth, inherited from fallen Adam, and a new nature received at regeneration when he/she became a participant in the divine nature (cf. 2 Peter 1:4). Both natures have desires, one for evil and the other for holiness. They are in conflict with each other, and the result can be that they keep a believer from doing what he otherwise would. – Bible Knowledge Commentary

# Timeline of your Life

Is your style and amount of **love** different?



BC = Life Before Christ

AC = Life After Christ

**Flesh**

**Spirit**

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident,  
which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,  
idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy,  
outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions,  
factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing,  
and things like these,

Galatians 5:19-21a

## 4 Categories of Sin

**Sexual sins** Sexual immorality (*porneia*) refers to all forms of illicit sexual relationships. Impurity (*akatharsia*) is a broad term referring to moral uncleanness in thought, word, and deed (cf. Eph. 5:3–4). Debauchery (*aselgeia*) connotes an open, shameless, brazen display of these evils.

**Religious sins** Idolatry involved the worship of pagan gods by bowing to idols. Witchcraft is the translation of the Greek word *pharmakeia* because in ancient times the worship of evil powers was accompanied by drug use to create trances.

**Societal sins** Hatred (*echthrai*) is in the plural form, denoting a feeling of enmity between groups. Discord (*eris*) is the natural result of “hatred” and a problem in the Galatian church. Jealousy (*zēlos*) is sinful and self-centered. Fits of rage (*thymoi*) or outbursts of temper, often come as a final eruption of smoldering jealousy. Selfish ambition (*eritheiai*) is a self-aggrandizing attitude which shows itself in working to get ahead at other’s expense (cf. Phil. 2:3). Dissensions (*dichostasiai*) and factions (*haireseis*) describe what happens when people quarrel over issues or personalities, causing hurtful divisions. Envy (*phthonoi*) is an evil feeling, a wrongful desire to possess what belongs to someone else. The sinful nature is seen to be responsible for the breakdown of interpersonal relationships in homes, churches, and in public society.

**Sins associated with alcohol** Drunkenness (*methai*) refers to excessive use of strong drink by individuals, and carousing (*kōmoi*) probably refers to the worship of Bacchus, the god of wine.

of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Galatians 5:21b**

The apostle then solemnly warned the Galatians that those who habitually indulge in these fleshly sins will not inherit the future kingdom of God. This does not say that a Christian loses his salvation if he lapses into a sin of the flesh, but that a person who lives continually on such a level of moral corruption gives evidence of not being a child of God. - Bible Knowledge Commentary

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

**Fruit** is singular, not plural. As the children of God, we are to possess and demonstrate all of these characteristics. We are not allowed to pick and choose the ones we like best or the ones we already have. They are not done with human strength but by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. We each possess all 9 characteristics, but we must make them manifest in our daily walks. We must demonstrate all of them as part of our attitude. The fruit is the outward manifestation of our salvation. All 9 characteristics are commanded of believers in the New Testament and Jesus is the supreme example of each of them.

## Love – αγαπη agapē

- Unconditional love which should be evident in the believer's life
- 1 Corinthians 13:13 “But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
- For Christ-followers, love is a command, not an option
- To demonstrate this agape love, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit – “the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:5)
- Jesus said in John 13:35, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
- God is love and loves the world (cf. 1 John 4:8; John 3:16). Such self-sacrificing love that sent Christ to die for sinners is the kind of love that believers who are Spirit-controlled manifest.

## Joy – *χαρά chara*

- There is a difference between joy and happiness... joy is not circumstantial, but based upon spiritual realities.
- Joy is a deep and abiding inner rejoicing which was promised to those who abide in Christ (cf. John 15:11). It does not depend on circumstances because it rests in God's sovereign control of all things (cf. Rom. 8:28).
- "Joy is the deep-down sense of well-being that abides in the heart of the person who knows all is well between himself and the Lord. It is not an experience that comes from favorable circumstances or even a human emotion that is divinely stimulated. It is God's gift to believers." (John MacArthur)
- "and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory." 1 Peter 1:8
- Almost mysteriously, joy sometimes is greatest during the times of most difficult and painful circumstances
- Our joy is made full through reliance on and obedience to the Lord. "Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be made full." (John 16:24)
- Joy is also a command given to believers "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." (Phil. 4:4)

## We have joy in:

- **Jesus Christ** – John 15:10-11 “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”
- **Other believers** – 1 Thess. 2:19-20 “For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.”
- **Service to God** – 2 Cor. 1:24 “Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.”
- **Someone else beginning their relationship with Jesus Christ** – Luke 15:7 “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”
- **The Holy Spirit** – Rom. 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”
- **The midst of trials** – James 1:2 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds”
- **The basis of our strength** – Neh. 8:10 “Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

**Peace**– εἰρηνην *eirēnē* in Greek, שָׁלוֹם *shalom* in Hebrew

- Root meaning of *shalom* is “wholeness” or “well-being”
- Often combined with other terms
  - Peace and security – from invasion
  - Peace and prosperity – material well-being, good harvests, safety from animals and enemies
- We do not have peace when we are living in human strength and wisdom; peace comes when we are rightly connected to God through Jesus Christ.
- Peace is a gift of Christ (cf. John 14:27). It is an inner repose and quietness, even in the face of adverse circumstances; it defies human understanding (cf. Phil. 4:7).

# Peace:

- 1. Is the result of Righteousness** Is. 32:17 “And the work of righteousness will be peace, and the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.”
- 2. Comes from God** Ps. 29:11 “The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.”
- 3. Is found in The Messiah** Is. 9:6 “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”
- 4. Is ours because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary** “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Rom. 5:1
- 5. Is brought by The Holy Spirit as Jesus’ gift to His followers** In John 14:27, Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”
- 6. Believers are to seek it** Ps. 34:14 “Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”
- 7. Should characterize our relationship with others** Heb. 12:14 “Pursue peace with all men.”
- 8. Should rule our hearts** Col. 3:15 “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”

## Patience/long-suffering – μακροθυμία *makrothymia*

- “The calm willingness to accept situations that are irritating or painful” (John MacArthur)
- Is a command given to believers “And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Col. 3:12) and “show forbearance to one another in love” (Phil. 4:2)
- It is “forbearance and patience with joyfulness according to His power (Col. 1:11) (Strauss)
- Long-suffering will enable us to pray for those who hurt us.
- Is the quality of forbearance under provocation (2 Cor. 6:6; Col. 1:11; 3:12). It entertains no thoughts of retaliation even when wrongfully treated.

## Kindness – χρηστοτης chrēstotēs

- Tender concern for others, a desire to treat others gently, as God treats us
- Jesus said, “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.” Matthew 11:28-30
- The followers of Christ are commanded to “not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all” 2 Tim. 2:24
- Is benevolence in action such as God demonstrated toward men.
- Since God is kind toward sinners (cf. Rom. 2:4; Eph. 2:7) a Christian should display the same virtue (cf. 2 Cor. 6:6; Col. 3:12).

## Goodness – αγαθωσυνη agathōsynē

- “Moral and spiritual excellence that is known by its sweetness and active kindness” (John MacArthur)
- “Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life” (Ps. 23:6)
- In another command to believers, Paul writes, “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.” (Gal. 6:10)
- Is both an uprightness of soul and an action reaching out to others to do good even when it is not deserved.

# Faithfulness – πιστις *pistis*

- This is the abandonment of self and complete confidence in God.
- Hebrews 11:1 says, “Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
- There is a difference between:
  1. Believe in God – even the demons do this (James 2:19)
  2. Believe God
- The quality which renders a person trustworthy or reliable, like the faithful servant in Luke 16:10-12.

# Gentleness/meekness – πραοτης prautēs

- Jesus in human flesh was the ultimate demonstration of meekness
- Not weakness, but power under control.
- Ed Young: “God-tamed and God-trained.”
- “It is that humble and gentle attitude that is patiently submissive in every offense, while being free of any desire for revenge or retribution.” (John MacArthur)
- Believers are commanded to pursue gentleness in 1 Tim. 6:11
- In the New Testament, this word is used to describe 3 attitudes:
  - submissiveness to the will of God (Col. 3:12)
  - teachableness (James 1:21)
  - consideration of others (Eph. 4:2)
- It marks a person who is submissive to God’s Word (cf. James 1:21) and who is considerate of others when discipline is needed (cf. “gently” in Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:25; “gentle” in 1 Cor. 4:21; Eph. 4:2; “gentleness” in Col. 3:12; 1 Peter 3:16).

# Self-control/temperance – εγκρατεια *enkrateia*

- Allowing God to master me, so I can restrain my passions and appetites
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to control me from within
- A man must become such a master of himself that he can be a servant of others
- Believers are commanded in I Cor. 9:25 to have “self-control in all things”
- This noun (used in the NT only here and in Acts 24:25; 2 Peter 1:6) denotes self-mastery and no doubt primarily relates to curbing the fleshly impulses just described. Such a quality is impossible to attain apart from the power of God’s Spirit (cf. Gal. 5:16).

# Fruit of the Spirit

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self-control

To be the Christ followers that God intends us to be, we must intentionally seek to demonstrate each of the characteristics. To do that, we must be willing to give ourselves a spiritual check-up, to determine which of these 9 areas we are strong in and which we are weak in. For our strong areas, we must build and depend upon those strengths. For our weaker areas, we should study the scripture passages that teach on that topic and commit to praying for God's guidance and discipline in that area.

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

## Galatians 5:25-26

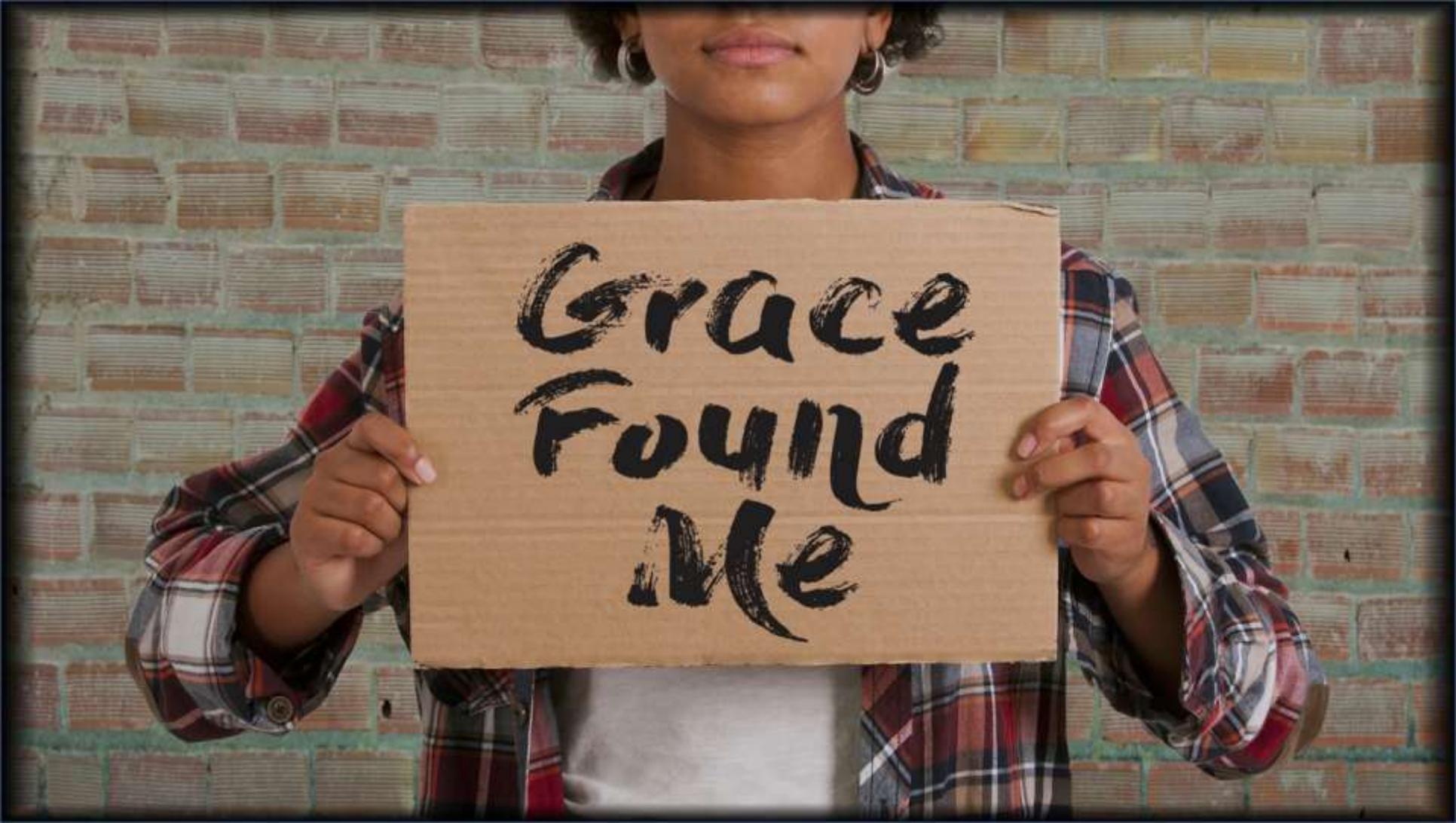
Paul challenges the Galatians to live a life of harmony. Conceited legalism sees no need of the Spirit's help and thinks it has accomplished salvation apart from the Spirit. Instead, it leads to arguments. Paul says to stop provoking and envying each other. These negative traits point to the divisions in the church caused by the legalists. The only answer to such disharmony is love empowered by the Holy Spirit. - Holman New Testament Commentary

# Question for Today

How does a disciple of Jesus live when their daily walk is motivated by and guided by agape love?

# Has Grace found you?

For by grace you have been saved  
through faith; and that not of yourselves,  
it is the gift of God  
Ephesians 2:8

A person with dark curly hair and hoop earrings, wearing a red, white, and blue plaid shirt, holds a rectangular piece of brown cardboard. The cardboard has the words "Grace Found Me" written on it in a thick, black, brush-stroke style. The person is standing in front of a brick wall with light-colored mortar. The image has a dark, vignetted border.

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