



Sep—Dec  
2023

ACC  
Sermon  
Series

# A UNITED COMMUNITY

The doctrines  
which bring us  
together



# Grace.

## Ephesians 2:1—9

ACC Sermon Series  
Sep—Dec 2023



**Sermon 8 of 9**

# χάρις

/Xáris ("grace") answers directly to the Hebrew (OT) term /Kaná ("extension-toward").

Both refer to God freely extending Himself (His favour), reaching (inclining) to people because He is disposed to bless (be near) them.



## WHAT IS GRACE?

—  
WHAT IS  
GRACE?



God's favour &  
generosity to  
the unworthy



# Ephesians 2:1—3



“<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

# Ephesians 2:4—5



“<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by **grace** you have been saved.

# Ephesians 2:8—9



“**8** For it is by grace you have been saved,  
through faith – and this is not from  
yourselves, it is the gift of God  
**9** – not by works, so that no one can boast.

**...the Lord is compassionate  
and gracious, slow to anger,  
abounding in love.**



Psalm 103:8



## C.S. LEWIS

Author and scholar, on the uniqueness of Christianity.

— “Oh, that’s  
easy. It’s  
grace.”



# PARABLES OF GRACE

**Many of Jesus' parables (stories with a hidden meaning) were about grace**



Debtor forgiven



Great banquet



Lost son & sheep



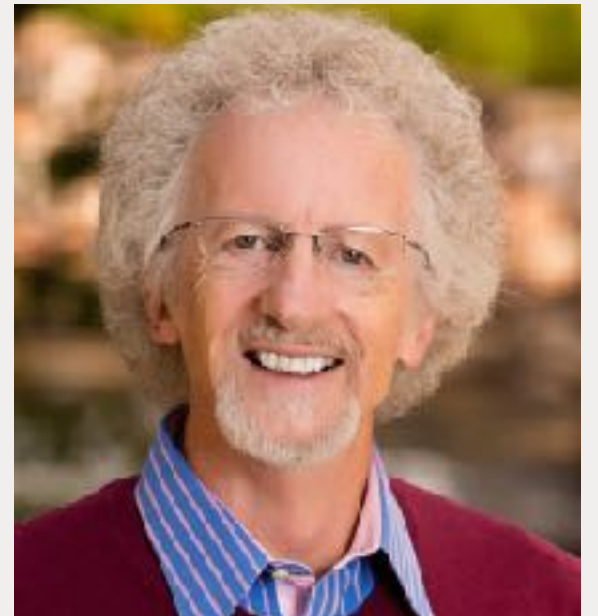
Vineyard workers



- “Grace is Christianity's best gift to the world, a spiritual nova in our midst exerting a force stronger than vengeance, stronger than racism, stronger than hate.”

## Philip Yancey

Author



UNGRACE

**EARN  
IT!**

We experience  
'ungrace' all  
around us



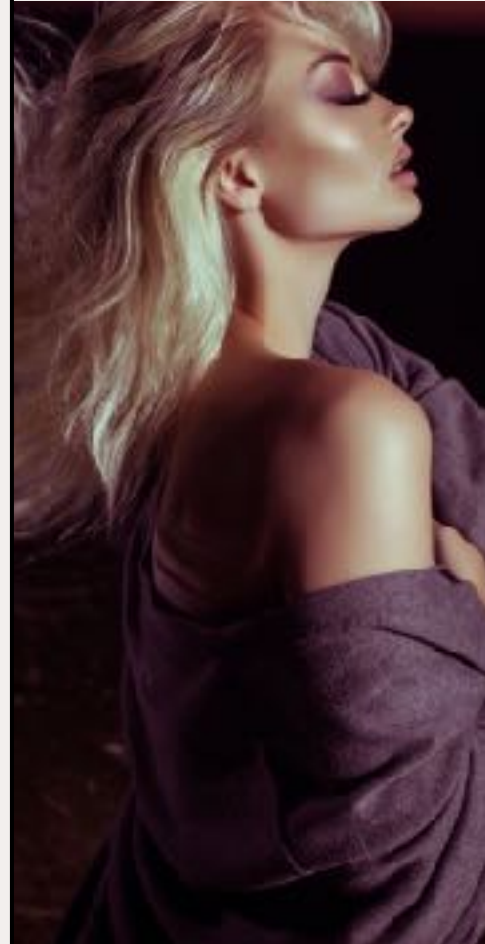
**Culture**



UNGRACE

**EARN  
IT!**

We experience  
'ungrace' all  
around us



**Culture**



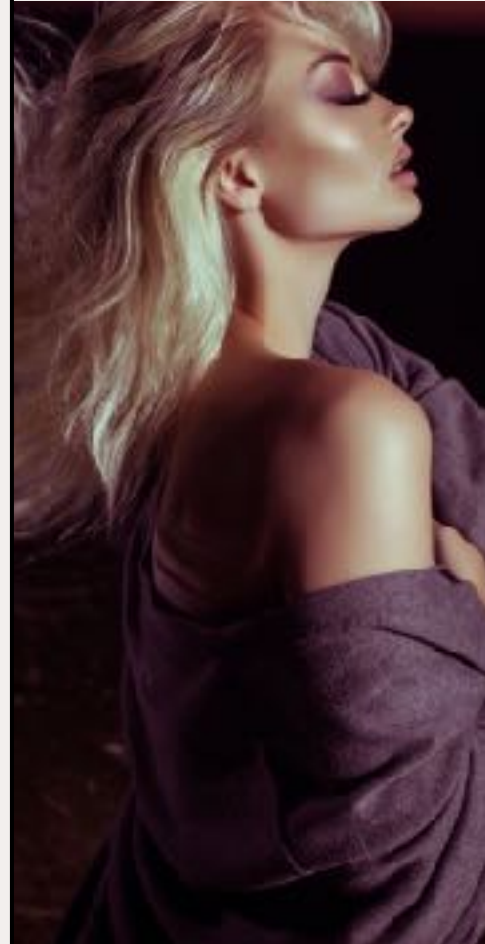
**Religion**



# UNGRACE

## EARN IT!

We experience  
'ungrace' all  
around us



**Culture**



**Religion**



**Bad  
parenting**

Grace...

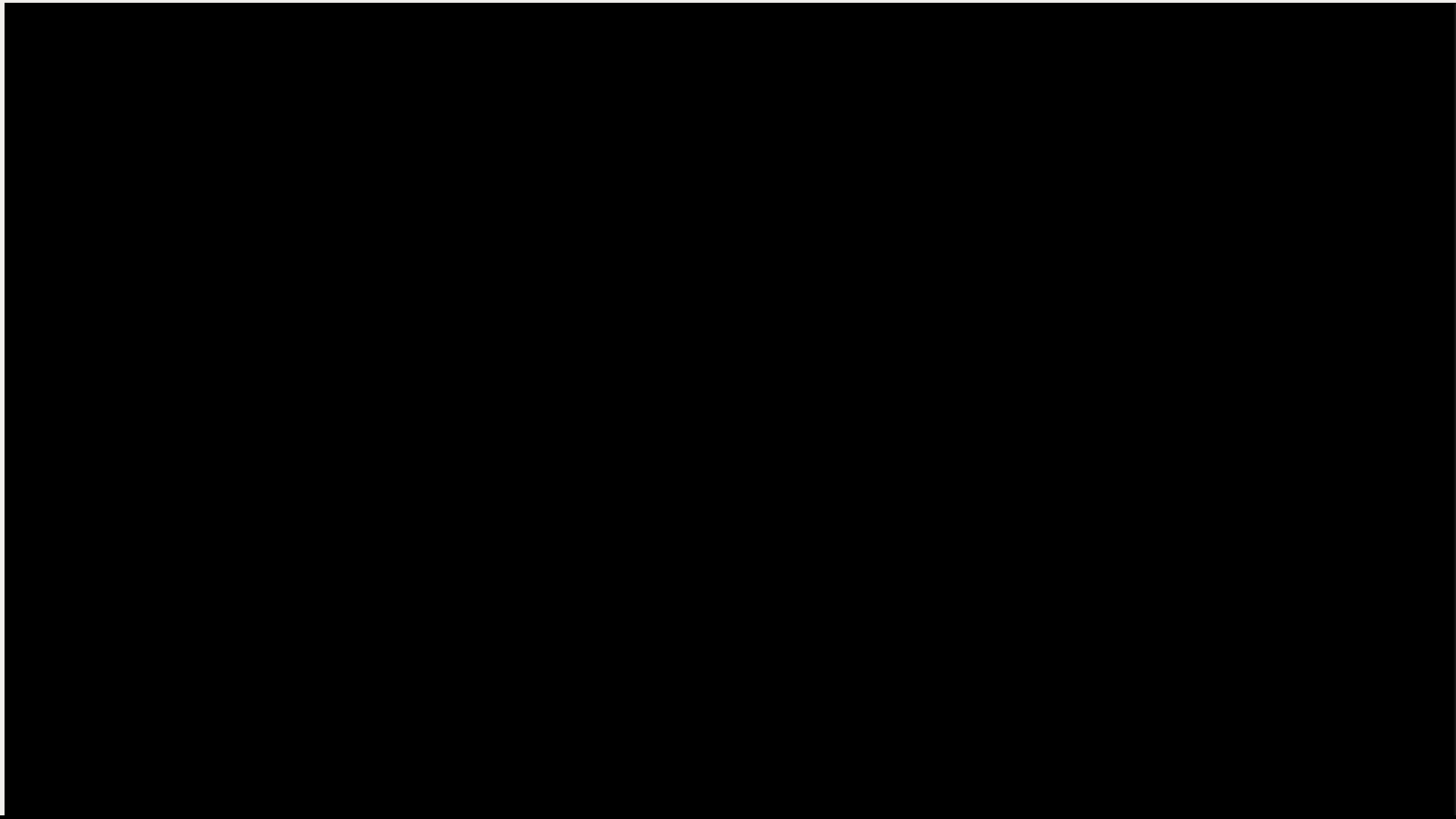


...satisfies our starving souls

—  
WHAT IS  
GRACE?



God's favour &  
generosity to  
the unworthy



# GRACE

God's favour & generosity to the  
unworthy & undeserving



God  
says...



“COME”



Come and  
know me and  
know my love  
and care





## THE EFFECT OF GRACE



Prevents us slipping into pride  
or despair or uncertainty



## THE EFFECT OF GRACE



Prevents us slipping into pride  
or despair or uncertainty



Causes us to treat others the  
same as God has treated us



## THE EFFECT OF GRACE



Prevents us slipping into pride  
or despair or uncertainty



Causes us to treat others the  
same as God has treated us



Means we welcome failures  
and outcasts to church



## THE EFFECT OF GRACE



Prevents us slipping into pride or despair or uncertainty



Causes us to treat others the same as God has treated us



Means we welcome failures and outcasts to church



Produces proactive care and protection for the vulnerable

# **GOD INTENDS CHURCHES TO BE PLACES OF:**



**HOPE &  
BLESSING**



**SAFETY &  
SECURITY**



**GROWTH &  
DEVELOPMENT**



**FORGIVENESS &  
HEALING**





## THE EFFECT OF GRACE



Prevents us slipping into pride  
or despair or uncertainty



Causes us to treat others the  
same as God has treated us



Means we welcome failures  
and outcasts to church



Produces proactive care and  
protection for the vulnerable



## COMMUNION: A TABLE OF GRACE.

“...we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by **grace** you have been saved.” Eph. 2:3—5