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Week 3: Too Much Grace?

Introduction:

It seems we've all heard the claim in one way or another...

"Watch out for that greasy grace stuff!"

"Don't fall for the cheap grace teaching!"

"Don't believe that hyper-grace theology!"

The Power of God's Grace in My Life Today:

1. Grace means that my sins are _____
2 Peter 1:9
2. Grace means that I live in _____
Romans 6:14
Titus 2:11-12
(see also Romans 5:20, 7:5, 7:8, 1 Corinthians 15:56)
3. Grace means that my life is _____
Psalm 24:3-4
Galatians 3:1-3

The multiple-choice quiz:

1. How did you receive the Holy Spirit?
 - a. By works of the law (human effort)
 - b. By grace through faith (dependency on Christ)
2. How do you plan to continue your spiritual journey?
 - a. By works of the law (human effort)
 - b. By grace through faith (dependency on Christ)

The Big Idea:

When Jesus said, "It is finished" – He actually meant it! The cross actually worked! The Holy Spirit given at Pentecost sealed the deal. Want to keep struggling with sin? Live under Law. Want to walk in greater freedom? Live in GRACE!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Have you ever heard or struggled with the lie claiming that there can be “too much grace” in your understanding of the Christian faith and Gospel?

Ponderings:

2. The message of God's grace is often criticized as being “easy believism” or “cheap grace.” Why do you think that is? Discuss...
3. We often equate God's grace with His forgiveness. In what ways does God's empowering grace encompass more than just forgiveness? Discuss....
4. Read Romans 6:1-14 as a group and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
 - What was Paul's over-arching answer to the unfounded concern that “too much grace” might lead to a license to sin?
 - What are one or two things you can apply to your life right now from the truth of this passage?

Promptings:

5. In what area(s) of your life might you need to remember your forgiveness and celebrate God's grace more fully?

How might remember and celebrating God's grace in the life of other believers impact your relationship with them, especially those you may not easily “get along” with?

*This series is based upon some of the subject matter from Andrew Farley's book Twisted Scripture, and some ideas are inspired directly from its contents, used with permission.