**Finding Grace**

**Our Savior of Grace**

**The Grace of Endurance – Did Jesus Ever Discriminate?**

**Matthew 5:16** - *Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

**John 1:14** - *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth…For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.*

3 lessons from the discrimination of Jesus

**I. Jesus’ Discrimination is What Led to His Crucifixion**

A. Against hypocrisy – John 2

**John 2:14-17** - *And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away; stop making My Father’s house a place of business.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house will consume me.”*

B. Self-righteousness – John 3

 **John 3:10-12** - *Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?*

**John 3:17-18** - *For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

C. Immoral behavior – John 4, 8

**John 4:17-18** - *…Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”*

**John 8:11** - *“…Go. From now on, sin no more.”*

D. Against unbelief – John 6

**John 6:66** - *As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*

E. Against legalism – John 9

**John 9:39-41** - *And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.” Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”*

**Proverbs 29:25** - *The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.*

**II. Jesus’ Discrimination is What Motivated His Endurance**

**Matthew 26:53** - *Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*

**Matthew 26:54** - *How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?*

A. His discrimination regarding your ability to save yourself

**John 14:6** - *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

**Matthew 27:46** - *About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*

B. His discrimination regarding the depth of His love for you

**Romans 5:6-8** - *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

C. Paving the way for God’s people to endure hardship as we seek to live for Him

1. Our concern is not primarily the way other people live, but the freedom to exercise our religious beliefs.

a. We want the freedom to live out our beliefs in every sphere of life.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** - *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

b. “Primarily” as opposed to “exclusively” because in a participatory democracy, there are times when citizens are asked to help set moral values.

1) During an election

2) During a referendum when a decision is made about a community standard

2. There are areas of life that are especially sacred to followers of Christ

a. Our love for and commitment to the truth of the Word of God

**Psalm 119:133-135** - *Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Your precepts. Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.*

b. Our commitment to the rights of the unborn

c. The sanctity of marriage

**III. Jesus’ Discrimination is What You and I Will Someday Face**

**2 Corinthians 5:20-21** - *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*