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Grace And Love
The Attributes Of God, Pt. 6

As we continue in our series of The God of the Bible and His Attributes, we are studying the moral attributes of God that they are communicable unto us to partake and manifest.

And in many of them we are commanded by God to impart them to others as freely as they have been given to us.

* Jesus said, that we have freely received, and we are to freely give. Matt. 10:8

Paul tells the Corinthians, “what do you have that you have not received, if you have received it, why are you boasting as if you did not receive it!” 1Cor. 4:7

Let’s look at two more moral attributes of God.

I. Grace.

II. Love.

I. **Grace.**

A. God’s attribute of grace is simply the unmerited favor that is bestowed upon man.

- 1.** Grace is God’s benevolence without meeting any prerequisites.
 - a.** Of worthiness.

b. Of payment in return.

c. Through grace, God brings about salvation to man.

4. Grace consistently describes God’s favor and graciousness towards man.

a. Grace stands in complete contrast to the law of Moses. Rom. 11:6, 4:4

b. The best illustration of grace is the word “gift” which comes from the word “Karis”, grace.

c. Grace should be something given out of love and without thought of being repaid or of a person deserving it.

d. James gives us a classic example and examination of our faith that is based on the grace of God, it is to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions. Ja. 1:27

* This is the act of grace to meet the need of those who could never pay us back.

e. Grace “charis” appears 156x’s in the New Testament.

B. God’s attribute of grace is declared throughout Scripture, Old and New Testament.

* Often people start in the New Testament to teach about grace but that is a mistake.

1. Noah found grace “chen” in the eyes of God. Gen. 6:8

2. So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you

have found **grace** in My sight, and I know you by name. Ex 33:17

3. "Moses entreats for Israel, "Then he said, "If now I have found **grace** in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance." Ex. 34:9
3. God is full of compassion and gracious. Ps. 86:15
4. The Lord is gracious. Ps. 116:5
5. The Lord God of host will be gracious says Amos. Amos 5:15
6. Jonah tells God that it was because he knew that God is a gracious God that he ran away. Jonah 4:2
7. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great **grace** was upon them all. Acts 4:33
8. "The church continued in the grace of God. Acts 13:43
9. The proclamation of the First church council was, "But we believe that through the **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they." Acts 15:11
10. Grace is the common greeting throughout the New Testament letters.

C. God's attribute of grace is channel through the person of Jesus Christ.

1. Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn. 1:14
2. And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. Jn. 1:16
3. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Jn. 1:17
4. Paul But to each one of us **grace** was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Eph. 4:7
5. Grace is imparted by the agent of the Holy Spirit, the comforter who Jesus would send in His own name to testify of Him and He is called the Spirit of grace. Zach. 12:10; Heb. 10:29
6. Peter says, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the **grace** that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1Pet. 1:13
7. Peter again tells us we are to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2Pet. 3:18a
8. John closes the book of Revelations by saying, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen." Rev. 22:21

D. God's attribute of grace has an object it is man.

1. Grace is not made available to fallen angels, they can not be redeemed.

- a. They are fallen and the Lake of fire was prepared for Satan and the angels that followed him. Matt. 25:41
 - b. They are of two classes, demons that need to possess a body and those that do not.
 - c. They are of two bound categories, those that are permanently bound and those that are temporarily bound.
2. Grace is not made available to animals, they die and cease to exist.
* Yes there will be animals in the kingdom Age but nothing is said about eternal abode.
 3. Grace is not available to the sinner unless he is calling on God for repentance.
 4. Grace is the source of salvation. Eph. 2:8
 5. Grace is the source of our justification. Rom. 3:24
 6. Grace is the source of our calling to the ministry. Gal. 1:15
 7. Grace is the source of our gifts. Rom. 12:3
 8. Grace is the source of our strength. 2Cor. 12:9
- E.** God's attribute of grace is described in the New Testament as:
1. Great. Acts 4:33
 2. All abundant. Rom. 5:15-20
 3. All sufficient. 2Cor. 12:9
 4. Glorious. Eph. 1:6

5. Rich. Eph. 2:4,5
 6. Undeserved. 1Tim. 1:12-14
 7. For sinners. 1Tim. 1:15-16
 8. Manifold. 1Pet. 4:10
- F.** God's attribute of grace is to be acted on by way of command to the believer in the New Testament.
1. We are to stand in grace. Rom. 5:2
 2. We are to abound in grace. 2Cor. 9:8
 3. We are to speak with grace. Eph. 4:29
 4. We are to be strong in grace. 2Tim. 2:1
 5. We are to inherit grace. 1Pet. 3:7
 6. We are to grow in grace. 2Pet. 3:18
- G.** God's attribute of grace is warned against in the New Testament such as:
1. We are not to abuse the grace of God. Rom. 6:1
 2. We are not to frustrate the grace of God. Gal. 2:21
 3. We are not to turn from the grace of God. Gal. 5:3-4

Illustration

George Muller in his constant dependency of God for everything ran his orphanages with all grace abounding towards him, always having all sufficiency in all things, abounding for every good work.

* One day he called the children down to dinner knowing that there was dinner to be eaten and as they

began to give God thanks for what they were about to receive there was a knock on the front door. The milkman stood there and ask him, “Mr. Muller my cart broke down in front of your orphanage and the cheese and milk will spoil, could you use them for yourself?”

The moral attribute of grace that is communicable is imparted to us and we are to impart it to others!

II. Love.

A. The moral attribute of “love” is the attribute that describes God’s very nature.

1. The first time the word love appears in the Old Testament is in the context of father and son as God commanded Abraham to take his only son Isaac, whom he loved and to offer him on Mount Moriah. Gen. 22:2

* This was prophetic of the sacrifice of God’s own Son to come 2,000 years later, as God would provide His only Son Jesus Christ on the very same mount.

2. The first time God expresses His love for Israel reveals this truth.
 - a. God declares, “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor

choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” Deut. 7:6-8

* This word for love in the Hebrew “ahavah” is equivalent to the Greek word “agapee”

- b. John the beloved expresses the same truth in awesomeness of such love, “Behold what manner of **love** the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! 1Jn. 3:1a-b
3. The first time we see the love of father and son in the synoptic gospels of the New Testament is when God spoke from heaven declaring, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” Matt. 3:17; Mk. 11:11; Lk. 3:22
4. The first time love appears in John’s gospel is regarding the love of the Father for His Son as His expression of love for the world. Jn. 3:16
5. John tells us that God is love “apapeo”. 1Jn. 4:8b

- a. The word “agapeo” and it’s various forms were not in Classical Greek but the New Testament defines it by God selfless and all providing love.
 - b. The very nature of God is love, this love is distinct from the sexual love “eros”.
 - c. This love is distinct from the emotional love yet it is full of passion and emotion in it’s purest form.
 - d. This very love is exemplified in the book of Hosea as the prophet is told by God o marry Gomer who plays the prostitute and bear children by her lover and Hosea by her back from the slave market and redeems her for himself. This was to be a picture of God’s love for Israel and what He would do in the latter days. .
 - * The picture of God’s covenant relation of loving-kindness hesed” or steadfast love “ which is associated with the grace of God in the Old Testament. Ex. 33:13, Deut. 7:12, Jer. 31”3
6. John also tells us that God by nature is not only “love” but “Spirit” and “light”. Jn. 4:24, 1Jn. 1:5
- B.** The moral attribute of love brings judgment on a person or nation as the result of sinning against God’s love.

1. Judgment is evidence of ongoing sin against God’s love which is attempting to turn a person from sin and evil.
 - a. The flood of Noah. Gen. 6-8
 - b. The abomination of the Amorites. Gen. 15:16
 - c. Sodom and Gamorrah. Gen. 19
 - d. The Northern Kingdom of Israel through Amos. Amos 4-5
 - e. God through Isaiah pronounced judgment on Ephraim and tells us that His method of dealing with man in judgment is a called an “unusual act” or strange work, He rather bless through His love. Is. 28:21
 - * God’s love and holiness are tied together, due to His holiness we cannot approach Him but by His love He approaches man!
2. Whatever and whenever God allows a person to go through difficulties and trials, it is motivated by His love for their refining and to be a benefit to others much like Joseph. Gen. 38-45
3. Love is His very nature, so God created man to bestow His love upon him.
 - b. He is the epitome of love being a holy God desiring to be One with sinful man and incurring the cost, He laid down His life us and therefore we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1Jn. 3:16

- c. God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while** we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8
 - d. He is the One who can fulfill the list of Corinthians being love Himself. 1Cor. 13:4-8a
 - e. He is always working on behalf of the sinner not Himself, having become sin for us. 2Cor. 5:21
 - f. He is a faithful High Priest in heaven who lovingly will meet the needs of the believer. Heb. 4:14-16
- C. God's moral attribute of love is uncaused and is not dependent or conditional on outward appearance as man's love.
1. God's attribute of love expresses and reveals that it is void of self-interest, not imparted due to debt nor prompted by any outward attraction but sovereignly chooses to bestow it for the good of man.
 - a. To Israel he said, "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the

- house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." Deut. 7:7-8
- a. God commended his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8
 - b. John says we love him because he first loved us. 1Jn. 4:19
2. God's attribute of love is unconditional for the provisions of salvation, no person is excluded.
 - a. God says that whosoever believes in Him, Jesus, shall not perish but have everlasting life. Jn. 3:16
 - b. Scripture declares about God, "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth" 1Tim. 2:4
 - c. God is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:9
 - d. He demonstrated his love by touching the leper. Matt. 8
 - e. He honored the repentance of the prostitute who washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. Lk. 7
 - f. He reached out to the demoniac. Lk. 8
 - g. He raised the daughter of Jairus. Lk. 8
 - h. He revealed to Nicodemus the key to enter heaven. Jn. 3
 - i. He reached out to the Samaritan woman. Jn 4

- j. He forgave the sins of the woman taken in adultery. Jn.8

D. The object of God's love is three-fold:

1. His Son.
 - a. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (baptism) Matt. 3:17
 - b. The Mount of Transfiguration tells us the same thing but adds, "hear Him". Matt. 17:5
2. The Believer.
 - a. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given to us. Rom. 5:5
 - b. John records the prayer of Jesus, "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved". Jn. 17:23
3. The World.
 - a. God demonstrated His love right after the fall by promising the birth of the Redeemer. Gen. 3:15
 - b. The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 1Jn. 4:14
 - c. The proof was manifested on Calvary upon the cross. Jn. 19

E. The attribute of God's love is described in the New Testament as:

1. Sacrificial. Jn. 3:16
2. Inseparable. Rom. 8:35
3. Conquering. Rom. 8:37
4. Sovereign. Rom. 9:19
5. Immeasurable. Eph. 3:17-19
6. Great. Eph. 2:4

F. The attribute of God's love is to be acted upon by way of a command in the New Testament.

1. We are to love our enemies. Matt. 5:43-44
2. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Matt. 22:39
3. We are to be known as the disciples of Jesus by our love. Jn. 13:35
4. We are to love one another as Christ. Jn. 15:12
5. We are to love without dissimulation. Rom. 12:9
6. Husbands are to love their wives. Eph. 5:25
7. We are above all these things to put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col. 3:14
8. Wives are to love their husbands. Tit. 2:4
9. Our love is to abound yet more. Phil. 1:9
10. We are to direct our hearts into the love of God. 2Thess. 3:5
11. We are to let brotherly love continue. Heb. 13:1
12. The greatest commandment is to love God with all our soul, mind and strength. Mk. 12:30

13. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 1Jn. 4:8-11, 16
14. Jesus said, “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?” Matt. 5:46-47

Illustration

Luther called John 3:16 “The heart of the Bible-the Gospel in miniature.” It's so simple a child can understand it; yet it condenses the deep and marvelous truths of redemption into these few pungent words:

- “God”.....The greatest Lover.
 “So loved”.....The greatest degree.
 “The world”.....The greatest number.
 “That He gave”.....The greatest act.
 “His only begotten Son”/..The greatest gift.
 “That whosoever”.....The greatest invitation.

- “Believeth”.....The greatest simplicity.
 “In Him”.....The greatest person.
 “Should not perish”.....The greatest deliverance.
 “But”.....The greatest difference.
 “Have”.....The greatest certainty.
 “Everlasting life”.....The greatest possession.

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The moral attribute love is communicable as it has been imparted to us, so we are to impart it to others!

Conclusion

These are two more moral attributes of God that are communicable to us as children of God.

- I. Let us receive God's grace and herald it!
- II. Let us receive God's love and manifest it!