

MY GOD FORGIVES ME

Like A Child Series -3

Mark 10:15; 1 John 1:9

You never hear...

- In order to get this promotion-I've got to work like a child
- We won't win the national championship unless we have child like teamwork
- Get out of debt...I've got to earn like a child

In the areas of life that are seemingly insignificant we would never want to emulate a child yet in the most important/eternal things...it's the only way we can experience it.

15 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:15

Review verse context before and after...

v.5: Light and dark comparison...

v.6: lying... practicing, living according to...

v. 7: Sin... GK: hamartia defines this term as "a departure fr. either human or divine standards of uprightness" **Not just what we think is but what God thinks is sin... perfection!**

Sin compare... 1:7 and 1:9 justification/sanctification or pre/post conversion.

v.8: Sin GK: refer to a state of sin. Situations where a wrong action has been committed or a wrong attitude has already existed, resulting in a state of sin, and then something else happens which further emphasizes the evil of that action or attitude.

You say you love God and love others yet you do this...

Some were saying that things a believer did after conversion were not significant enough to be "sins" to be an obstacle their intimate relationship with God (The writer says he didn't have that relationship have to begin with)...

Don't Judge Me!

Anyone who believes such a statement is more than a liar; he is deluding himself. "Ourselves" holds an emphatic position, because such people are not innocent victims; they take the lead in deceiving themselves. The New Testament uses "deceive" (Greek, planōmen) for serious error, not incidental mistakes. Such a claim demonstrates that the truth of the gospel has not become part of the person's life.

v.9: Rather than denying sin, believers are asked to acknowledge it freely. When we admit our sin, we find, paradoxically, that God removes it. "Confess" (Greek, homologōmen) implies we must acknowledge that our sin is sin and admit that we committed it.

Once we confess sin, the character of God guarantees forgiveness. He is a faithful God who can be trusted to keep His promises (cf. Jeremiah 31:34). He is a righteous God who will forgive our sins because the death of Christ has already paid the penalty for them.

**v.5 THIS IS THE GOSPEL MESSAGE... A PROMISE! [“promise theology”]
[GK: n. epangelia - ah pong gah lee ah]**

**For this is the word of promise, Rom 9:9
receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Gal 3:14
the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given Gal 3:22
we, ... as Isaac was, are the children of promise. Gal 4:28
ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Eph 1:13
and strangers from the covenants of promise, Eph 2:12
partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Eph 3:6
according to the promise of life which is in Christ 2 Tm 1:1
And this is the promise that he hath promised us, 1 Jn 2:25
the message that ye heard from the beginning, 1 Jn 3:11**

In classical literature epangelia is actually a legal term for a “declaration of a claim” or a “public denouncement” of someone who had violated a public trust. It further progressed to mean an “offer” or a “promise,” which approximates the New Testament usage. Later it became a technical term for “voluntary payment.”

In Old Testament thought ... What God promises, i.e., what He says He will do.

The first promise of God mentioned in the Old Testament occurs in the first four chapters of Genesis. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the Lord promised that the Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. A second promise is located in Genesis 9:11 where the Lord vowed never again to destroy mankind by a flood. the primary point of origin for understanding “promise” in the Old Testament is God’s promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).

All things considered, the very nature of the old covenant God established with Israel had the characteristic of a promise. Furthermore, when Israel’s tribulation was at its worse—when the nation was rebellious and in captivity— they received the clearest, most direct promise of their coming Messiah.

The New Testament’s concept of epangelia expands upon the premise that the Old Testament promises of God are to some extent fulfilled in Christ. The concept of “promise,” therefore, is not monolithic; God’s promises involve Jesus himself, His ministry, the salvation He brings, the consummation of God’s promises to Abraham, and the promise of the Spirit.

Paul argued that the Law was not the vehicle of promise, particularly not of righteousness and salvation (Romans 4:13f.). Instead, faith in God became the vehicle. This faith, then, is equivalent to believing that God has the power to do what He has promised to do.

How powerful is the Promise? Paul developed the contrast between Law and promise more fervently. He emphasized that the two are mutually independent. In fact, he pointed out that the “promise” ceases to be a promise if there is any connection to fulfilling the conditions of the Law... It isn’t about YOU. It’s not what you do... its what Jesus has done!

If you seek to gain the promised inheritance through obedience to the precepts of the Law, you will lose what has been promised. The promise was given by grace to Abraham hundreds of years before the issuing of the Law.

Galatians 3:14 proclaims that “the blessing of Abraham” comes to Gentile as well as Jew through Jesus Christ so that “we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”

Good News! “better promises” are coming. The Book of Hebrews tells us that some of the promise will be fulfilled in His second coming. So, the promises in Christ are superior to the promises given Abraham because Jesus is the guarantor of a better agreement. **NO CO-SIGNER NEEDED!**

Like a Child... Kids understand Forgiveness. It makes sense to them. They desperately need it and their world isn't ok until they have received it. **A child simply believes that...**

MY GOD FORGIVES ME

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

DIAGRAM: 2 Subordinate Clauses and 2 Segment Clauses

IF... we confess AND faithful

He will Forgive AND cleanse

Sins AND ALL Unrighteousness [Holiness & Love]

2 WAYS ON HOW GOD FORGIVES

1) GOD REMOVES OUR SIN COMPLETELY

He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

Psalm 103:12 NLT

Its not even that God no longer holds our sin against us, he completely separates our sin from us. It is no longer attached to or associated with us.

2) GOD FORGETS OUR SIN IMMEDIATELY

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.

Isaiah 43:25

The all-knowing creator of the world makes the willful decision to limit His memory as it relates to our sin.

Remember before computers... **typewriter**. Mistakes required White Out cover up. No spell check, delete button, backspace. The way we do it ... it's still there just covered up.... God

deletes, backspace, erases the cache and clears the history completely. It's ALL GONE! We use a typewriter... God uses a computer!

When we ask for forgiveness from others it continues to follow us like a dark cloud and we define ourselves by the very sin we've asked God to forgive us for...what do kids understand that we need to learn? Permanent record! Arrest record...

Honestly how many of you at one point in your life or another have asked for God's forgiveness yet don't feel forgiven?

LIVING UNDER GRACE

The Problem is our understanding...

Grace feels too easy. Grace too good to be true. It makes me feel better if I add a little something to it.

God's grace + anything else= isn't God's grace at all.

Grown ups naturally live under the law (have you ever thought)

I read the bible today=God is pleased with me...if I do enough good things, I can keep this one sin for myself...I'm not nearly as sinful as that person...I can never be free from this addiction [Life Dominating Habit] so why even try... I'm going to get rid of my guilt by doing more good things.

For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:14

The Solution is God's understanding...

LIVING UNNDER GRACE: THE LIFE-CHANGING CONSTANT AWARENESS OF WHAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN IN LIGHT OF WHAT I DESERVE

Set the Scene... In Luke 7:36-39... *When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.*

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Luke 7:44-48 NIV 2012

2 WAYS LIVING UNDER GRACE PROPELS US TO...

1. CHANGES OUR HEART'S AFFECTION [Heart Condition]

The desires of your heart... your motivation...

I need you to like me =approve....Jesus

You need the promotion = prestige or finances...Jesus

You need a spouse = love or relationship...Jesus

2. CHANGES OUR LIFE'S DIRECTION [Heart Reaction]

Back to the story... Luke 7:37-38 *A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.*

The affection is driving the direction!

What is the significance of this perfume? 1 yrs wages. Most people look at this as the most extravagant act of worship toward Jesus in scripture and it is but there is more... at this time in an Arab culture, the perfume was worn around the neck of the prostitute. As men would walk by they would smell the perfume and that was the sole sign that the woman was selling her body. Pouring the perfume wasn't just an act of love but a declaration that she will never be a prostitute ever again. She poured out on Jesus any future opportunity to sin.

The GRACE of God is dangerous, lavish, excessive, outrageous, scandalous, and more than we can ask or imagine!

The person who receives this gift with childlike faith will never be the same. It will change their view of their past and future. It will change the hearts affection and life's direction.

Prayer: