



## Welcome to Unity's Interactive Worship Service

### Today's Topic: The Power of Grace

Power Point notes available at:  
[www.unityofbakersfield.org](http://www.unityofbakersfield.org)

## The Power of Grace

The word "grace" can mean several things to many people depending on each circumstance or situation.

In everyday life we see grace showing up as:

A manifestation of favor, especially by a superior: "It was only through the dean's grace that I wasn't expelled from school."

Mercy; clemency; pardon: "He was saved by an act of grace from the governor."

## The Power of Grace

A favor shown in granting a delay or temporary immunity: "A grace period of 30 days is allowed before the policy is cancelled."

In religion we see grace as:

The freely given, unmerited favor and love of God as the Spirit of God operating in humans to regenerate or strengthen them.

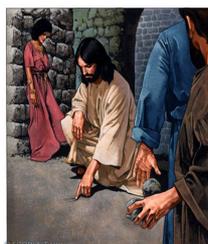
The condition of being in God's favor or one of the elect, as being in a state of grace.

## The Power of Grace

Where did the idea of grace come from? What was it about the human condition that people believed that they were in need of grace? Was it something inside of our consciousness that spoke to us through our act of love to show mercy, favor, forgiveness upon others?

Jesus exhibited grace by never asking, "Why should I help you?" Everyone was entitled to God's kingdom and love regardless of need or want.

## The Power of Grace



The power of grace can be seen in the story of the woman about to be stoned for adultery.

"And the scribes and Pharisees brought to him a woman taken in adultery; and said to him, Master this woman was caught in the act of adultery, and the law of Moses demands she be stoned to death."

## The Power of Grace

"So, we would like to know what you have to say about it, tempting him, that they might have cause to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground. So when they continued asking him, he stood up, and said to them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And when they heard it they were convicted by their own conscience, and dropping their stones, went out one by one."

### The Power of Grace

“As Jesus stood up, only the woman remained and he said to her, Woman, where are your accusers? She said, No is here, Lord. And Jesus said to her, Neither do I condemn you: go, and sin no more.” (John 8:3-11)

Ah, there’s that word again: SIN. Self inflected nonsense that seems to be part of the human condition. Could this be the reason grace was developed in the mind of humankind? We’re so bad that we need more than God’s love?

### The Power of Grace

The Greek word for “sin” is an archery term meaning to “miss the mark.” The early church adulterated the term making it a thing that God hated and therefore would punish us for it. The forgiveness of sins and the granting of grace was a powerful and profitable tool for the church.

It has been said that we are not punished for our sins, but by our sins. What does that mean and how does the power of grace factor into helping us free ourselves from our “self inflected nonsense?”

### The Power of Grace

The self inflected nonsense we experience in the human condition shows up in our lives as blocks to the power of grace through:

1. Negative thinking resulting from human perceptions or judging by appearances.
2. Insistence of even exchange all the time.
3. The belief that we of ourselves must do all the work.
4. The fear that the will of God might cause us some pain and suffering.

### The Power of Grace

Traditional religion teaches that grace is a gift freely given to us by God, even if we don’t deserve it. It is God’s unmerited love and mercy.

However, we in Unity, see it as God’s gift freely given as unconditional love, always available and accessible to everyone who desires to accept it for themselves. Everyone deserves it, no matter what, remember Jesus and the adulteress.

### The Power of Grace

We, ourselves, are responsible for letting the power of grace be active in our lives and affairs. As the Daily Word stated today:

“Like the Prodigal Son, I may feel unworthy. Feelings of unforgiveness, such as the older brother felt, may also block the flow of good in my life. As I recognize and release these thoughts and feelings, I open my entire being to God’s grace.”

### The Power of Grace

The power of grace is always active, for it is God’s creative life force that is an ever flowing activity of good in the universe.

Grace is always seeking to express as an abundance of good in our lives, for the nature of God is always GIVING! When we accept this truth, believing that God knows ways to bless us, that God is the source of those blessings, we open ourselves to the divine flow of opulent good, which far exceeds any good we can imagine for ourselves.

### The Power of Grace

Unity's seven points on the power of grace:

1. God's grace always manifests as an expression of increased good as an aspect of divine law, which does not deal in the idea of even-exchange, but in the increase of good through greater giving.
2. Grace is God's gift to us, simply because we are a part of God, which is good.
3. As God's gift to us, grace cannot be earned, it is freely given.

### The Power of Grace

4. Grace is God's goodness to us in greater proportion than we give of ourselves to God.
5. As co-creators with God, the universe stands ready to bring to us that which we need, not what we want, through grace.
6. Grace is always present, even if we fail to realize it.
7. Grace is part of the Creative Life Force that is constantly creating more of itself so that we may always experience, "this or something better."

### The Power of Grace

How do you want the power of **"GRACE"** to show up in your life?

1. **G**od's **R**ich **A**bundant **C**ontinuously **E**xpressed, or maybe as;
2. **G**od's **R**adiant **A**ctivity **C**ontinuously **E**xpressed, or how about;
3. **G**race **R**estoring **A**ffirming & **C**leansing **E**verything?