

The Purpose of Grace

A guilty person stands before a judge's bench in the courtroom.

“Not guilty!” comes the verdict, “case dismissed!” - down comes the gavel.
That's mercy. Mercy is pardon.

So what is grace? Grace is *extended* mercy - mercy taken to a much higher level.

Grace says, “not only are you pardoned, but I will put you through some training so that you can come up here and sit beside me and judge”.

In terms of pleasantness, mercy is pretty. i.e. It is pleasant to the eyes – as a pretty flower.

Whereas mercy is pretty, grace is beautiful. The beauty of an ice skater flowing magnificently across the ice. The beauty (gracefulness) of a swan on a lake.

Grace is mercy (pretty), but extended mercy (beautiful).

Relating the comparison to us, mercy would birth the baby. A baby is cute, cuddly, fun to play with – but not functional in our society.

Grace is the father who lays down his life to work to provide for the child.
Grace is the mother who lays down her life to feed, clothe, nurture the child.
Grace is the school teacher who lays down his/her life to educate the child.
The end result is to have an adult that can function and contribute to our society.

Referring back to the courtroom example, whereas mercy would let the person go free to do whatever they want, **grace would make them spiritually employable.**

The apostle Paul states:

[Eph 3:7](#) Whereof **I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace** of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

[Eph 4:7](#) But unto **every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift** of Christ.

Because of Paul's gift of grace, he grew spiritually and was able to minister (and continues to minister) to God's people.

When we prophecy, see visions, lead praise, minister a word, teach, etc., we do it because of God's grace on us.

The purpose of grace is to give a person spiritual functionality. .