



God has chosen to include us into his master plan of salvation. We will be glorified and able to praise our maker in eternity – not because of anything we have done, but because of God’s choice to show us grace.



Grace is “the undeserved, unmerited, and loving action of God in human existence through the ever-present Holy Spirit.” It is by God’s continual seeking us out to bless us – that allows for our transformation. We could no more successfully transform our insides into the likeness of Christ on our own than we could transform our bodies into a Camaro or Butterfly.



**United Methodists understand grace as described by John Wesley:**

**Prevenient Grace** – the Grace God give before we respond to his loving forgiveness.

**Justifying Grace** - the saving substitutionary act of Jesus on our behalf – so we can be forgiven.

**Sanctifying Grace** – the mercy that God works in and through us to help us become the Camaro we were meant to be.

## Grace that Embraces



God's Grace is for everyone. God seeks out all. Red and Yellow Black and White – we are precious in his sight! PBS News hour reported 2 years ago that “white Christians, once predominant in the country's religious life, now comprise only 43 percent of the population, according to the Public Religion Research Institute....Four decades ago, about eight in 10 Americans were white Christians.” In the ANE – Christians were not the majority...no matter their nationality! They were being persecuted by almost everyone. They, and we still today, preach a counter cultural message that promotes being so others and God centered that the world doesn't get it!

The Galatian Christians converts had a challenge before them: Will they follow Jewish law and be circumcised first in order to be Christian, or will they see that God's grace has met them where they are and invited them into a new community? Peter, James, and John recognized that grace had been given to Paul to preach transformation by Jesus. They were on the same page on grace so they merely required Paul to care for the poor. This was a mark of Jewish piety as well as an act of solidarity between the Gentile and Jerusalem church.

Be warned, however, busyness and abiding by church rules do not earn salvation. Caring for the poor is a response to the grace we receive, not a condition of it.

## Grace that Transforms & Embraces

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Here's the main point of the sermon, when we recognize the grace of God given to others, despite our differences, we are able to continue and expand our ministry reach because of our differences. When God acts, we are invited to respond. Not the other way around.



How has God's transforming grace changed your life or the life of someone you love? How has your view of the world changed? How has God embraced you?