

GRACE IS NOT THAT EASY

A REPLY TO THE "EASY-BELIEVISM" PEJORATIVE

*"if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution?
then is the offence of the cross ceased."*

~ Galatians 5:11

1. Easy Believism

- a. *"Faith alone, grace alone"* - how far does this go? Are works ever necessary?
 - i. No works for grace? No works to access grace? ... to stay in/prove grace?
- b. *"Easy believism"* - salvation cannot be denied/diminished/disproven by poor behavior
 - i. Pejoratively along "license to sin" "cheap grace" "mere intellectual assent"
 - ii. *"... but works are necessary" "true grace is proved in faith and works"*
- c. What makes it easy? You don't work.
 - i. Grace is not what you do, it is what He did.
 - ii. Worketh not (Rom 4:5) not your w. (Ti 3:5) not of w. (Eph 2:9) no more w. (Rom 11:6) not to baptize (1Co 1:17), not of necessity (2Co 9:7) died in vain?
 - iii. Our blessed assurance in the complete/finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. What makes it believism? Faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ plus nothing. Words.
 - i. Often thrown at dispensationalists who distinguish gospels for Israel/church
 - ii. Gospel of the kingdom - walk the line vs. Gospel of grace - Jesus walked.

2. The Great Objection

- a. *"But is it ok to go live a sinful life w/o good works due to grace?" - Rom 6:1*
- b. *"If it's grace, then _ <insert sin here>_ is not a problem, right?" - Rom 6:15*
- c. *"You keep using that word. I don't think it means what you think it means." - I.M.*
- d. Grace is a gift of life. It is the work of God in Christ on your behalf. It is a doctrine.
 - i. It produces Christ in you, not works in you. Col 1:25, Gal 2:20 (cf. Hebrews)
 - ii. It plants a seed in you. That seed is Christ, not a new lifestyle. Gal 6:14

3. Grace Is Not That Easy

- a. Grace required the death of the son of God. ← greatest act of love is not "easy"
- b. Grace requires you acknowledge your inadequacy, depravity, wickedness, sin.
- c. Grace required the mystery kept secret since the world began = longsuffering.
- d. Grace is offered to all sinners today (disp. of grace) = abundant mercy is not easy.
- e. Grace teaches you have a new identity ... identity change is not easy. Rom 6
- f. Grace says to walk after the Spirit - which is unseen, unfelt, not easily understood.
- g. Grace says learn and gain knowledge/understanding vs. here's the list, just do
- h. Grace changes the heart (which is changed by the mind) - Eph 6:6, Rom 6:17, 7:25
- i. Grace means you cannot determine God's will from the wind and experience. 1Ti 2:4
- j. Grace means you can mess up big, and you must choose and purpose to do right.
- k. Grace means you cannot force people to change. You must trust Christ and his word.
- l. Grace means you are not getting blessed for your actions. It's grace after all.
- m. Grace means you cannot curse others, and must minister to the undeserving.
- n. Grace ministry means you must do the work for someone who can but won't
- o. Grace living is not easy b/c you walk/grow by faith not work, which seems unnatural