

The Attributes of God
Attribute #20 - Gracious

1. Gracious – God is free in His goodness to those who have neither earned nor merited, in any manner, its bestowal. God receives nothing from man so as to prompt or cause His giving. God gives out of love, not out of obligation or necessity.
 - A. At best, man deserves only God's wrath (Romans 3:10-20), but He stretches forth His hand and offers an escape for those under a just condemnation. This is grace.
 1. Deut. 7:7-9; 9:5
 2. Isa.42: 1; 43:8
 3. Acts 14:3; 18:27
 4. Romans 3:24; 4:16
 5. 2 Thess.2: 16
 6. Titus 2:11; 3: 4-7
2. Grace is distinguished from mercy for the mercy of God is "over all His works" (Psalm 145:9) whereas grace is the sole source from which flow the goodwill, love, and salvation of God for His chosen people, the elect.
 - A. Grace is the eternal and absolute free favor of God, manifested in the vouchsafement of spiritual and eternal blessings to the guilty and unworthy.
 1. Grace is exercised only for the elect.
 2. Neither in the Old Testament or the New Testament is it ever mentioned in connection with mankind in general.
 - B. The grace of God is seen in the sovereign and saving favor of God in the bestowment of blessings upon those who have no merit in them.
 1. Grace can neither be bought, earned, or won by anyone, or it would cease to be grace.
 2. When we say "it is of grace", it means that the recipient has no claim upon it and that it is not due the person.
 3. Grace comes as pure charity
 4. Grace stands in direct opposition to all works of whatever kind or degree
 - a. Romans 11: 6 - And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.
 - b. Roman 4:4-5 - Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. 5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts

God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

- c. The absolute unmerited favor of God cannot coexist with the works of man or human merit anymore than oil and water.

3. The Characteristics of the grace of God –

A. It is eternal

- 1. Grace was planned before it was exercised and purposed before it was imparted.

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| a. | 2 Tim.1:9 | d. | Eph.1: 4 |
| b. | John 17:24 | e. | I Peter 1:18-20 |
| c. | Acts 15:15-18 | f. | Rev. 13:8; 17:8 |

B. It is free

- 1. Grace cannot be purchased because it is a gift given not earned.

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| a. | Romans 3:24 | c. | Eph. 2:7-10 |
| b. | Romans 5: 16-19 | d. | Titus 3: 3-8 |

C. It is sovereign

- 1. God exercises and bestows His grace on those whom He pleases.

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| a. | John 1:16 | c. | Titus 2:11-15 |
| b. | Heb.4:16 | d. | 1 Peter 5:10 |

D. Grace is described as:

- 1.. Great - Acts 4:33.
- 2.. Manifold - 1Pe 4:10.
- 2.. Sovereign - Rom. 5:21.
- 3. Rich - Eph 1:7; 2:7.
- 4.. Exceeding - 2 Cor. 9:14.
- 5. All-sufficient - 2 Cor. 12:9.
- 6. All-abundant - Ro 5:15,17,20.
- 7. Glorious - Eph. 1:6.

4. The Communication of Grace

- A. Grace is manifested (observable) in and by and through the person and work of Christ.

1. John 1:17
2. Grace and truth were fully revealed and perfectly exemplified when the Redeemer came to earth and died for His people.
3. Romans 5:15, 17, 21

B. Grace is proclaimed through the gospel.

1. Acts 20:24, 32
2. Titus 2:11-14
3. 1 Peter 5:12
4. 1 Cor. 1:20-25
 - a. There is nothing in the gospel that gratifies the pride of man.
 - b. It announces that if one is not saved by grace alone one cannot be saved at all
 - c. It declares that apart from Christ, the state of every person is desperate, irremediable (beyond repair), and hopeless.
 - d. It declares individuals as guilty, condemned, perishing criminals.
 - e. It declares individuals not as the accused waiting trial but the condemned waiting punishment (John 3:18; Romans 3:19)
 - f. It declares that one's only hope is the grace which Christ offers.

C. Grace is applied by the Holy Spirit.

1. He is referred to as "the Spirit of grace" (Zech. 12:10)
 - a. God the Father is the Fountain of Grace
 - b. God the Son is the Channel of Grace
 - c. God the Spirit is the Bestower of Grace

D. Grace is the source of

1. Election - Rom. 11:5.
2. The call of God - Gal. 1:15.
3. Justification - Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:7.
4. Faith - Acts 18:27.
5. Forgiveness of sins - Eph 1:7.
6. Salvation - Acts 15:11; Eph 2:5,8.
7. Consolation - 2 Thess. 2:16.
8. Hope - 2 Thess 2:16.

5. Grace applied to the Saints

- A. Are heirs of - 1Peter 3:7.
 - B. Are under - Rom 6:14.
 - C. Christ - John 1:16.
 - D. Are what they are by. - 1 Cor 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:12.
 - E. Abound in gifts of - Acts 4:33; 2 Cor. 8:1; 9:8,14.
 - F. Should be established in - Heb. 13:9.
 - G. Should be strong in - 2 Tim. 2:1.
 - H. Should grow in - 2 Peter 3:18.
 - I. Should speak with - Eph 4:29; Col 4:6.
 - J. Specially given
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- 1. To ministers - Rom 12:3,6; 15:15; 1 Cor 3:10; Gal. 2:9; Eph 3:7.
 - 2. To the humble – Prov. 3:34; James 4:6.
 - 3. To those who walk uprightly - Psalm 84:11.