

### A Mind that Thinks “Never Worthy; Always Loved”

In a world built on facial technology, we should ask ourselves the question, “What is the face of grace?” There is a scientific way to measure a face. You may *claim* you are someone else, but your face proves it. Grace, just like your face, is difficult to define. They’re easier to describe. In Dickens’ *Great Expectations*, the gossip Wemmick is said to have a “*post-office mouth*” used for “sorting and relaying information.” In this series, we’ll see how the Bible describes the mind, the mouth, the eyes, and the ears of God’s grace.

If I was pressed to give a description of grace, it would be “unmerited favor” or “kindness undeserved.” Until I’m *captivated* by God’s grace for me, I’ll never be able to *convey* grace to others. The favor of God for sinners is the gospel. God says, “*My grace is sufficient for you*” (II Cor. 12:9). So I learn “*By His grace, I am who I am*” (I Cor. 15:10). Therefore, I am “to *walk consistent with my calling of grace*” (Eph. 4:1-6). **Graced people live gracious lives.** Living graciously requires an awakening to God’s grace. For human favor flows from the Divine fountain. *There are five principles of grace in the mind of a gracious person.*

### A Mind that Thinks, “Never Worthy, Always Loved.”

#### I. This means the one loved is never good enough, but real love never requires it.

Love is moving toward another, giving freely to meet *real* needs without any expectation of return. To love is to be selfless. The world’s love is self-absorption. “I’ll look good; I’ll dress to impress; etc.” Self-absorption is built on “being good enough” to *feel* accepted, favored, and loved by other people. You may be asking yourself, “*Who in this world loves the unworthy without expectation of return?*”

##### A. **God loves you and you’ll never be worthy.** Listen to Jesus speak on this subject (Matt. 5:46-47).

*“If you love those who love you... don not even the tax-gatherers do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”*

*“God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners...Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).*

##### B. **It’s when one awakens to the reality of favor without merit that one changes.**

*“Don’t despise the riches of God’s grace... for God’s grace leads you to repentance” (Rom. 2:4).*

Most eating disorders, addictions, and self-inflicted wounds are attempts to medicate pain.

When we understand that the love of God is personal, unconditional, and eternal, we change.

*“We love Him because He first loved us” (I John 4:19)*

##### C. **Do you really understand your unworthiness before God?**

*There’s only one way to tell.* If you’re captivated by God’s grace, you’ll always love the unworthy.

#### II. “Never worthy, always loved” is the mindset of the person who is captivated by God’s grace.

When people are in pain, there’s a tendency to strike out at the person they feel is causing that pain. Truth be known, unworthy people cause pain. That’s what they do. Graced people show them favor. There are all kinds of objections: 1. But what about this....? 2. How can I if...? 3. Isn’t that enabling?

***There is a difference between good judgment and living in judgment.***

Living in judgment is pulling away from offenders because you see them as the source of your pain.

Moving in love (I Cor. 13) toward those who are never worthy *for their personal good* is Divine grace.

*“Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back” (Luke 6:27-36 NIV).* That requires “the mind of grace.”