

A Mind That Thinks “Never Seeking; Always Pursued”

Everywhere we go we leave behind bits of DNA (“Deoxyribonucleic Acid”). Police use DNA to identify criminals. Soon it may be possible to accurately reconstruct a face from DNA trace material. This is the world of *DNA phenotyping*. That means with a skin cell, or trace of body fluid, you can construct a face. DNA phenotyping was first used in Columbia, SC, in Jan. 2015 to draw a composite sketch of a murderer.

What would it be like if people could look at every action you take, every word you speak? What if every trace evidence of your life and relationships helped others get a clear understanding of the *Face of Grace*? In a couple of weeks, we are going to begin examining how a graced person speaks, hears and sees. But we are looking in these first five messages at how the mind of a graced person will be thinking of others as *never worthy, but always loved; never desiring, but always chosen; never perfect, but always embraced*. **These are the principles of grace.** Today, we’ll see how grace thinks “**Never Seeking, Always Pursued.**”

I. A mind of grace understands the power of one to bring life to what is dead.

Was God kind to you *because* you wanted Him or did God pursue when you weren’t seeking Him? “*Even when we were dead in our trespasses, ‘God made us alive with Christ by His grace’*” (Eph. 2:5). Grace is kindness to the undeserving. “*We love Him because He first loved us*” (1 John 4:19). We can’t love Him if we are “dead toward Him.” In relationships, people who are dead don’t seek others out. The story of Hosea and Gomer is a wonderful picture of “the power of one” in illustrating God’s grace.

- A. Grace picks the one not seeking a relationship** – God told Hosea to go marry a known prostitute. Most relationships are based on “what you can give to me, rather than what I’m giving to you.” “*I will say to the one called ‘Not My people,’ you are My people*” (Hosea 2:23). A graced person values those relationships where nothing is expected nor needed from the person being pursued.
- B. Grace pursues the one running from a relationship** – After Hosea married Gomer, Gomer left. Gomer goes back into prostitution, lies about her relationships, and runs away from Hosea. Every self-respecting person would be angry, right? What does Hosea do? He pursues his wife in grace. In Hosea’s story, his wife who runs away ends up being sold as a slave. Hosea *redeems* his wife.
- C. Grace pours kindness on one who ends a relationship** – This is so foreign to the way people think. “You end a relationship with me, then by golly, I’m going to do what I can to punish and hurt you.” But we find Hosea pursuing Gomer, for “*I will allure her ... where she needs to be*” (Hosea 2:14). “If you don’t heal what hurt you, you will bleed on people who didn’t cut you” (Unknown).

II. Until you see the power of One in your own life, you’ll never pursue those who run from you.

God is “*the God of all grace*” (1 Pet. 5:10). We are told to “*grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ Jesus*” (2 Pet. 3:18). God’s purpose of grace is to take us and “*conform them into the image of His Son*” (Romans 8:29). Jesus is our “Balm in Gilead” (Jer. 8:22). Understand His grace pursuit of you. “They saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming **from Gilead**, with their camels bearing gum, **balm**, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt” (Gen. 37:25). Jesus goes with you all the way to Egypt.

III. When my mind is captivated by God’s grace, I’ll convey grace to others around me.

These are four major ways my life changes when I’m thinking “*never seeking, always pursued.*”

- A. I’m not concerned what others think of me because God tells me what He thinks of me.
- B. I’m careful to never portray myself as a victim and take full responsibility for my actions.
- C. I’m confident in who I am, so I’m thinking about what I can give, not what I need.
- D. I’m captivated by God’s grace, so I’ll never get exhausted giving grace since, I’m filled with it.