

How Grace Disciplines Us

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Titus 2:11-12.

B. The Greek word translated “discipline/teach” is similar to the concept of child training. We could also use the word “disciple”.

II. The grace that saves us also disciplines us. (Titus 2:11-12)

A. There is no salvation without sanctification. They come together. (Titus 2:1-10)

B. Grace teaches us to say “no” to ungodliness.

1. Ungodliness means to push God to the periphery of our lives and decisions, not necessarily blatant immorality.

a) Moralism is heresy because there is no place for God in it.

b) Moralism is rampant in the church.

III. Grace teaches us to live God-dependent lives. (Deuteronomy 8:17-18; James 4:13-15)

A. Godliness is God-dependency.

B. Grace teaches us to say “no” to our ungodliness and worldly desires.

C. Grace teaches us to live a godly life. (Titus 2:11ff)

1. We need to take off godlessness and put on godliness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

a) Self-controlled living means using self-restraint. (Titus 2:11ff)

b) Living uprightly means exercising justice and fairness in our dealings with others. (Titus 2:11ff; Matthew 7:12; Leviticus 19:11ff)

c) Living godly lives recognizes our dependency on and accountability to God in our everyday habits and mindsets.

IV. Grace teaches by the Spirit as opposed to by the Law. (Romans 7:4, 6)

A. We have died to the guilt that the law brings so that we can bear fruit. (Romans 6:14)

B. Grace teaches us through the Holy Spirit.

1. The Spirit changes and motivates our hearts to obey. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)
2. The Spirit enables us to obey the Law's commands. (Philippians 2:12-13)
3. The Spirit causes our hearts to delight in the Law. (Romans 7:12-13)
4. The Spirit shows us Christ's love so that our obedience is a response to love not fear.
5. The Spirit allows us to feel accepted by God, which gives us strength. (Philippians 3:7-14)

Application questions:

1. How can you guard against moralism and choose godliness in one or two of your daily habits?

2. How have you seen the Holy Spirit change your heart to delight in obedience to God in the past? How do you see the Holy Spirit teaching you to delight in godliness now?

3. How have you seen the Holy Spirit release someone you know from guilt and show them Christ's love? What was their response?
