

Grace

God's invitation
To become *infinitely* more
than we can be.

Grace

- “Habitual” Grace
- “Actual” Grace

What is “Grace”

- Blessings . . . “Biyaya”
- Good fortune

Grace . . .

- . . . is not a “thing”
- . . . is a *relationship*

Grace (catechism)

- The life of God
- communicated freely and
- accepted through faith.

Grace (catechism)

- **Participation in God's life.**
- **Union with God.**
- **In-dwelling of the Trinity**

Trying to Understand Mystery

- Something we cannot understand because we do not have the facts
- Something we cannot understand even when we have the facts
- The infinity of God and our finiteness

Mystery of the Universe

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Mystery of the Universe



The Mystery of Grace

- *Life* of God communicated *freely* and *accepted* through faith.
- Participation in God's divine life. . . . Union with God.
- In-dwelling of the Holy Spirit

God's Life is Love.

“Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God; everyone
who loves is begotten by God and
knows God. . . .

for God *is* love.”

1 John 4:7

God's Love is a Person

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the *love of God*

come to us in Christ Jesus our Lord”.

(Rom 8:38-39)

God loved us first

- “In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us”

1 John 4:10

God's love is a gift

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God”

Therefore it is *unconditional*

Eph 2:8-10

God wants us to love Him

- But He also wants to love us
- We need metaphors just to begin to understand these mysteries!

Pearl of Great Price

Mt. 13:44-46

“The kingdom of heaven is like *a treasure* buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field”.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like *a merchant* searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it”.

A bridegroom's love

As a young man marries a virgin,
your Builder shall marry you;
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride
so shall your God *rejoice* in you.

Is 62:5

A mother's love

Oh, that you may suck fully of the milk
of her comfort; that you may nurse
with delight at her abundant breasts!

As nurslings you shall be carried in her
arms, and fondled in her lap; as a
mother comforts her son, so will I
comfort you;

Isaiah 66: 11 - 13

Isaiah 49: 15-16

Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her
womb?

Even should she forget,
I will never forget you.

See, upon the palms of my hands I have
written your name;

I will never forget you (Is. 49)

I will never forget you, my people.

I have carved you on the palm of my hand.

I will never forget you,

I will not leave your orphan,

I will never forget my own.

I will never forget you (p.2)

Does a mother forget her baby?

Or a woman, the child within her womb?

Yet even if these forget,

Yes, even if these forget,

I will never forget my own.

