

Mercy and Grace

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

What’s the difference between mercy and grace? These two vital terms in Christianity are often **misunderstood**.

Mercy is God **not giving us** what we **do deserve** (punishment for our sins) and Grace is **God giving us** something we **do not deserve** (forgiveness of our sins)

Mercy is what gets us out of trouble, **grace** gives us what we don’t deserve.

1. The Greek word that is translated as “mercy” is *eleoo*. It’s derived from the word for olive oil. Olive oil was used to treat **wounds**. It was comforting, soothing, and healing, which also speaks to a merciful God who is all those things.
2. **MERCY** is used at least **260** times in the KJV... **124** times in the New Testament. Defined-to show kindness or concern for someone in **serious need**.
 - The first mention we see in the Bible comes at Genesis 19:16 *“When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was **merciful** to them.*
3. **Compassionate** cries for mercy:
 - a. Matt. 15:22 *“...Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*
 - b. Matt.17:15 *“Lord have mercy on my son”*
 - c. Matt.20:30 *“...Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”*
 - The last time we see this word is Jude *“...as you wait for the **mercy** of our Lord...”*
4. The greatest visual of God’s mercy is reflected in the **cross**, a direct picture of His love for us. The mercy of the cross is an extension and expression of love, an act of kindness, compassion, and favor by a loving merciful Savior.

Alexander Whyte said this about the cross:

It is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace- It is a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing- It is a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power- It is a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness

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5. The Greek word for “grace” is translated “*Charis*” and means good will, loving-kindness, favor.
6. **GRACE** is mentioned over **300** times in God’s Word...about **150** in the New Testament. Paul used it more than any other NT author, using it at least **100** times in his letters. It can be defined as: *unmerited divine assistance for sanctification (being set apart for God's special use and purpose)*.
 - a. *Eph. 2:8-9 “For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast.”*
 - b. *Titus 3:7 Because of His **grace** He made us right in His sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.*
 - The first mention of “grace” comes in Gen. 6:8 *“But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the Lord”*
7. The distinctive meaning tied to the term “grace” in the New Testament is that of the **unending**, saving love of the Father toward sinners as seen in His Son.
8. Since *“**all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23***, such favor and loving-kindness on God’s part are **undeserved** by sinful people.
9. The grace of God shows favor and compassion towards the sinner that doesn’t deserve His forgiveness. The mercy of God shows compassion and forgiveness towards the sinner that doesn’t deserve favor. Together these show His **unlimited** love toward sinners.
 - The last time we see the word is in the final words of the Bible Rev. 22:21 *“The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen”*

The good news of His mercy and grace is *“...the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...”Romans 1:16.*