



INTRODUCTION

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Dark places are scary. We do not know what is there, good or bad. Things are hidden from us by the darkness. When a light comes to a place of darkness, it illuminates the area for everyone. The light does not select certain people; it is there for all.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) Our Savior came to light up the world; He came as an impartial light. Jesus was the light defeating darkness for all who would follow.

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. While Jesus was on the earth, people who were nothing like Him (prostitutes, tax collectors, terminally ill, Roman soldiers) flocked to Him. Why?
2. In your own words, what is grace? Is it difficult for you to imagine God as a God of grace? If so, why?

EVALUATE IT

1. Read John 1:9. Who did Jesus come to earth for? What should someone do to become qualified to receive the true light of Jesus Christ?
2. Read John 1:11. Who was His own? Why did they reject Jesus? How is their rejection of Jesus similar/different than people’s rejection of Jesus today?
3. Read John 1:14. What does it mean to be full of grace and truth? How did Jesus demonstrate His perfect balance of both?
4. Verse 16 states that from His fullness came grace upon grace. What does that mean? Where does this endless supply of grace come from? What does that tell you about your Heavenly Father?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. In your world of relationships, in which relationship is it most difficult for you to extend grace? Why are you afraid to extend to them what they don't deserve—grace?
2. What group(s) of people do you think the church struggles the most to extend grace to? Why? What can we do to solve this?

ILLUSTRATION

I vividly remember my last spanking. It was on my thirteenth birthday, as a matter of fact. Having just broken into the sophisticated ranks of the teen world, I thought I was something on a stick. My father wasn't nearly as impressed as I was with my great importance and new-found independence. I was lying on my bed. He was outside the window on a muggy October afternoon in Houston, weeding the garden. He said, "Charles, come out and help me weed the garden." I said something like, "No ... it's my birthday, remember?" My tone was sassy and my deliberate lack of respect was eloquent. I knew better than to disobey my dad, but after all, I was the ripe old age of thirteen. He set a new 100 meter record that autumn afternoon. He was in the house and all over me like white on rice, spanking me all the way out to the garden. As I recall, I weeded until the moonlight was shining on the pansies.

That same night he took me out to a surprise dinner. He gave me what I deserved earlier. Later he gave me what I did not deserve. The birthday dinner was grace.

-Charles Swindoll, *The Grace Awakening*



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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