

Grace Inspires Acocuntability

SESSION GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of what we want to walk away from the discussion with—knowing, feeling and doing.

Main Idea: Grace or unmerited favor is meaningless when there is no judgment.

Head Change: To understand that greater the measure of grace, the higher the degree of accountability.

Heart Change: To be deeply aware that we will need to account for all our actions and words.

Life Change: To make decisions and speak words that will honor God.

OPEN

Share some standards or ground rules they you grew up with in your own home or school. How did you feel about those rules growing up? Were you punished for breaking rules? Did your siblings or friends “tattle” on your misdeeds? How do you feel about those rules and consequences now? How would life have panned out without these accepted standards?

Imagine playing a game without any rules. After a while, you wouldn't even know what you were playing at! Rules are essential to ensure fair play—in a game and in life. Thankfully, alongside the rules, God also holds out immeasurable grace through Jesus—extra credit where none is due. That does not however, negate the rules.

In this session, Anand Mahadevan explains how grace and accountability go hand in hand. In the absence of an ultimate judgment, the concept of grace is meaningless. How can we be given grace if there is no standard to which we are held accountable?

As you watch this session, write down how Anand Mahadevan answers these questions.

What is cheap grace?

What is accountability?

Who will be judged and what will the outcomes be?

What is the connection between grace and obedience?

WATCH

SESSION 4: *Grace Inspires Accountability* (8 minutes)

REVIEW

Anand talks about his friend's response to the Christian logic of grace. In what ways would you agree or disagree with Anand's friend? Recall an incident when you did not receive the punishment you deserved—how did it make you feel?

Anand talks about 'cheap' grace. When does something valuable become 'cheap'? In what ways are you guilty of lowering the value of grace?

Anand drives home the fact that grace and accountability must both go hand in hand. In what ways does God's outpouring of grace demand accountability from you? How do you respond? What (if any) aspects of grace and accountability seem burdensome to you?

Can you recall instances when you enjoyed grace with accountability and grace without accountability? Which grace did you appreciate better? Why?

In The Parable of the Talent, the good servant and the bad servant were both asked to account for their actions. What advantage does the Christian hold over the non-Christian? Do you feel this advantage is fair or unfair? Why?

What emotions do the reality of judgment and accountability evoke in you? In what ways do you think accountability brings out the best in you?

Are you afraid of judgment—why or why not? Are there sins that you fear God may not forgive? How will you respond to this fear?

What does the word 'punishment' mean to you? Do you think God's punishment is fair? How would you explain to a non-Christian friend that Christians escape the punishment that they actually deserve?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Revelations 20:13-15, 2 Corinthians 5:9–10, Matthew 12:36–37. These Bible verses make it quite clear that everyone will have to give an account to God for their actions and their words. Contrary to what we believe Christians are **not** exempted from judgment.

Why do you think you still need to face judgment when you have accepted Christ as your Saviour? If there were no judgment for believers, how would that affect the way you lead your life?

Jesus warns us that we will be judged for every word we speak. What idle words or thoughtless actions do you need to repent of while you are here on earth?

Read Romans 2:12; 4:15, Luke 12:48. These words seem to imply that Christians will be held to a higher standard of accountability than non-Christians. In your own life, do you have a different set of expectations from projects (or people) into which you have invested more time and/or resources? Do you think your expectation is justified?

What life changes do you need to make so that you live life like someone who has been “entrusted with much”?

Read Romans 6:15–18, Luke 6:46. Grace is made available freely to us because of Jesus. Sadly however, many Christians use grace as a license to sin. What is the relationship between grace and obedience? How should grace inspire you to obey?

Is it possible for a true believer to keep on sinning? Why or why not?

Read 1 John 3:18, James 1:22–25, 2:17–18, 3:13, Matthew 5:16, 7:21–23, 21:28–32, Titus 1:16. How do these verses emphasize the importance of reflecting Christ through our actions?

What do you conclude about a Christian who professes Christ but does not live in accordance with His teaching?

To be accountable means that there is a standard against which our actions are judged. We are either living up to the standard or we are falling short. When we fall short,

grace covers over our lapses. The important thing is that we try our best to live up to God's standards.

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

PRAY: Ask God to reveal to you the ways in which you may have taken His grace for granted. Repent of treating His grace 'cheaply.'

ACT: God has poured out His immense grace on us. As 'imitators of Christ', we are asked to do the same. Who have you been withholding grace from? How can you proactively demonstrate grace this week to that person/those people?

REFLECT: Meditate on **Mark 9: 41**. What did Jesus mean by giving a cup of water in His name? What humble task is Jesus calling you to?