

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
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Thursday Evening IMPACT Bible Study

“The Difference Between Grace and Mercy”

(Lesson Outline: September 29, 2022)

For some, it’s hard to believe that there is nothing that you can do, to make God angry with you!!! Why? Because Jesus volunteered to go to the cross, and sacrifice Himself, for your sins.

And now since Jesus paid for your sins, God can “freely” give and show you, “**grace**” and “**mercy**”. These are two separate things!

We’re talking about the “*difference*” between “**grace**” and “**mercy**”. And, you will need to know the difference! Why?

FIVE STAR STATEMENT: You will not experience condemnation from God when you sin. You now have “**grace**” and “**mercy**”.

1). Psalm 23:6 (KJV)- Surely **goodness** and **mercy** shall *follow me* **all** the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

2). Hebrews 8:12 (KJV)- For I will be **merciful** to their **unrighteousness**, and their **sins** and their **iniquities** will I remember no more.

3). Lamentations 3:22 (KJV)- It is of the LORD's **mercies** that we are not consumed, because his **compassions** fail not.

MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION: When a Christian sin, what does God do?

***** Before we tell you what God does, we need to let you know, what **four other sources** do, when we sin!!!

1). Source # 1- Satan- He **condemns** and **encourages** you to keep right on sinning. To take that particular sin, to **another level**.

2). Source # 2- Other People- They will **condemn** and **judge** you.

3). Source # 3- Ourselves- We will **condemn** ourselves, and then live perpetually with **regret**.

4). Source # 4- Consequences- Consequences will simply **“kick in”**.

5). Source # 5- God- He lovingly **“discipline”** us. The Holy Spirit **“convicts”** us, and shows us the right way that we should go.

You must fully understand **“consequences”**, or else you will get them mixed up with **“condemnation”**. These are two separate things.

CONSEQUENCES

The Bible speaks of **two** different types of consequences:

1). Temporary Consequences

2). Eternal Consequences

EXAMPLE: The **“consequences”** of sin is **“death”**.

a). Temporary Consequences- All men experience death!

1). Hebrews 9:27 (KJV)- And as it is **appointed** unto **men** once to **die**, but after this the judgment:

b). Eternal Consequences-

1). Revelation 21:8 (KJV)- But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the **second death**.

2). Revelation 2:11- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the **second death**.

Now, how can a person *escape* “**eternal**” consequence, the “**second death**”?

SIDENOTE: God will allow unbelievers to experience a great deal of “**temporary**” **consequences**, if this will cause them to repent, turn to Him, so that they will not have to experience “**eternal**” consequences.

***** What a child of God, does **not** experience, when he/she sin:

A. Condemnation

1). Romans 8:1a- There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus,

B. God’s Anger

1). I Thessalonians 5:9 (GNT)- God **did not** choose us to suffer his **anger**, but to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

C. Vengeance or Payback from God

1). II Thessalonians 1:8a (ESV)- in flaming fire, inflicting **vengeance** on those who **do not know** God....

Jesus received all of the above for us!

So, exactly what “**consequences**” does (or might) *Christians* and *unbelievers* receive when they sin?

1. **General Consequences**- These are consequences that “**every**” man or woman receives.

a). Hebrews 9:27 (KJV)- And as it is appointed unto **men** once to **die**, but after this the judgment:

b). Romans 5:12 (KJV)- Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and **death** by sin; and so death passed upon **all** men, for that **all** have sinned

2). Normal Consequences- Somethings that we do have “*automatic*” consequences that are (practically) guaranteed.

a). Exodus 20:13 (KJV)- Thou shalt not kill.

If you should kill someone, you can expect “**normal**” consequences to kick-in. There are “automatic”, built-in consequences.

3). Teaching Consequences-

a). Acts 5:1-5 “Ananias” (KJV)- But a certain man named **Ananias**, with **Sapphira** his wife, sold a possession, ² And **kept back** part of the price, *his wife also* being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? ⁴ Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. ⁵ And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: **and great fear came on all them that heard these things.**

b). Acts 5:7-11 “Sapphira” (KJV)- ⁷ And it was about the space of three hours after, when **his wife**, not knowing what was done, came in. ⁸ And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. ⁹ Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. ¹⁰ Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. ¹¹ **And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.**

The “consequences” of their sins, the punishment they received, was used by God to **teach** the church how serious sin and hypocrisy was to God.

4). Disciplinary Consequences- This is when a loving God, “**disciplines**” (or trains) His children.

a). Proverbs 3:11-12 (KJV)- ¹¹ My son, despise not the **chastening** of the LORD; neither be weary of his **correction:** ¹² For whom the LORD **loveth** he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

b). Hebrews 12:5-11 (KJV)- ⁵ And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, **despise not** thou the **chastening** of the Lord, nor faint when thou art **rebuked** of him: ⁶ For whom the Lord **loveth** he **chasteneth**, and **scourgeth** every son whom he receiveth. ⁷ If ye endure **chastening**, God dealeth with you as with *sons*; for what *son* is he whom the *father* **chasteneth** not? ⁸ But if ye be without **chastisement**, whereof all are partakers, then are ye *bastards*, and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which **corrected** us, and we gave them **reverence**: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they verily for a few days **chastened** us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. ¹¹ Now no **chastening** for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the *peaceable fruit of righteousness* unto them which are exercised thereby.