



SOVEREIGN GRACE®
MINISTRIES

when sinners say

“I Do”

[grace]

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“I Do”
[grace]

I. INTRODUCTION

▪ Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. ¹⁵Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

II. SURVEYING TITUS

- *No need in Christendom is more urgent than the need for a renewed awareness of what the grace of God really is.*¹

A. Remaining Grace

1. Temptation is to look for marching orders—where we need to improve, labor, make more effort
2. Paul understands temptation and he is not afraid to call Christian to obedience
 - *Logical layout of Titus: Chapter 1, doctrine and duty in the church; Chapter 2, doctrine and duty in the home; Chapter 3, doctrine and duty in the world.*²
3. In Titus 2, grace didn't just appear, it remains
 - Temptation in marriage is to make change about us
 - *In one sense, life doesn't get complicated until one becomes a Christian. When we are born of the Spirit we are born anew into a fierce struggle between the old man and the new man.*³

¹ J.I. Packer

² John Stott

³ R.C. Sproul

4. Sanctifying grace ... persistent grace to run the race

III. WHAT IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH SANCTIFYING GRACE?

A. God Reveals the Enemy By Sanctifying Grace

1. Verse 12
2. Before renouncing, we must see ... but we don't see unless grace first reveals
3. Before grace trains, it exposes the real problem
4. *We are at the same time just and sinner.*⁴
 - a. *Our best deeds are no more than splendid sins.*⁵
 - b. *Our best deeds are shot through with sin and contain something for which we need to be forgiven.*⁶
8. Point: sanctifying grace first leads us to “find law at work”—to see ungodliness and worldly passions

B. God Trains Us to Fight Patiently By Sanctifying Grace

1. Job description: grace trains (v. 12)
 - *Grace is here almost personified in its task of educating us in the art of living.*⁷
2. Grace meets us where we are with the goal of taking us where God has called us
3. How does sanctifying grace work in marriage?
 - a. Grace gives the power to renounce the old (v. 12a)
 - (1) Puts us in touch with ungodliness and empowers us to renounce
 - (2) Grace arrives as a ‘weapon expert’ ... but it says more than simply, “attack”
 - b. Grace gives us the power to live (v. 12b)
 - (1) Grace tutors us to make an ‘exchange’
 - (2) Replace world with God
 - c. Grace gives us the power to wait (v. 13)

⁴ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

⁵ J.C. Ryle

⁶ J.I. Packer

⁷ Donald Guthrie

- (1) Progression: we renounce + we live + we wait
- (2) Sanctifying grace meets us in the waiting room
- (3) Change takes time
- d. Grace gives us the power to see (v. 13b)
 - (1) God teaches us who he really is in relationship to sin
 - (2) Grace trains and educates
 - (3) *Human sin is stubborn, but not as stubborn as the grace of God and not half so persistent, not half so ready to suffer to win its way.*⁸

C. God Calls Us to Help Our Spouse in Sanctifying Grace

- 1. Verse 15
- 2. Sharing sanctifying grace
 - a. We know that our spouse is inclined to drift from grace to self-effort
 - (1) Apply verse 15 by declaring it to each other.
 - (2) Bring the gospel into fellowship with your spouse—are you preaching it, meditating on it and grateful for it?
 - b. We know that our spouse may be discouraged with the pace of change
 - (1) Your spouse (or you!) may become discouraged when they don't see immediate fruit—grace is patient and persistent
 - (2) Remind each other that God works beneath the surface first
 - (3) Stubborn grace is a grace that serves God's way in God's time
 - c. We know our spouse needs to be pointed, not simply to grace, but to the One from whom all grace flows
 - (1) Verse 13
 - (2) Start with the 'grace of God that has appeared' (v. 11)
 - (3) Never displace grace in an attempt to find sin
 - (4) Sanctification can only happen because of grace
 - d. We know our spouse needs reminded to take every opportunity to thank God for the

⁸ Cornelius Plantinga

power behind our progress

e. Persistent grace to run the race

IV. CONCLUSION

- We don't have all the answers, but we have all we need