

# Habits of Fully Devoted Disciples

## THE FIRST HABIT - GRACE

Ephesians 2:1-10

**A. “What does it mean to be a part of the body of Christ? What does it mean to follow Jesus and be His disciple?”**

**1. Expectations for church members should correlate with Jesus’ expectations for his disciples**

*“If you would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me”*  
(Mark 8:34)

*“If you want to enter life, obey the commandments”* (Matthew 19:17)

*“If You love me, you will obey what I command.”* (John 14:15)

**2. Disciples follow in their master’s footsteps, take on his habits, priorities, focus**

**B. A disciple is a person who has received God’s Grace and is eager to share it**

### ACCEPTED

**A. Becoming a Christian requires a life-changing encounter with God’s Grace**

**1. You don’t become a Christian on the performance plan**

**2. The Christian life begins when you are brought into a relationship with God through the grace-plus-nothing plan Jesus offers**

**3. This radical, life-changing, destiny-altering plan is: Jesus died for you**

**B. The Grace of God (this gift of salvation) has to be received**

**1. Ironically, after everyone “comes” to Jesus, they realize they didn’t actually come to him at all. Jesus came to them**

**2. Salvation is a gift from the Lord. It is his initiative. But we must receive it**

### ABSORBED

**A. Grace is the foundation and essence of the Christian faith**

**B. Ephesians 2 begins with a rather dismal picture of our predicament in 2:1-3, Paul reminds us we were once spiritually dead**

**1. Then comes the turning point. 2:4 - “But God...”**

**a. His mercy: God’s concern for people who are dead in their sin**

**b. His love: God’s determination to do something about it**

**c. His grace: God’s free offer of salvation to undeserving sinners**

**2. There are three key elements it’s imperative we understand:**

**a. Where we were: Dead in trespasses and sin**

**b. Where we are: Living as recipients of salvation and eternal life**

**c. How we got there: By God’s mercy, love, and grace**

### APPLIED

**A. In 2:6-7, Paul illustrates what happens when we receive God’s grace**

**1. First, we are *raised up*. That is, we are transformed**

**2. Second, we *sit with God in heavenly places*; we experience Him now**

**3. Third, in *coming ages we have eternal life*. We will live forever!**

### ARTICULATED

**A. When was the last time you explained the Grace you received to someone?**

**B. Paul notes “why” God saved us by his grace**

*“We are God’s workmanship, created in Jesus Christ to do good works.”*  
(Ephesians 2:10)

**If your life is not impacting others for God then you are missing the purpose for which God has made you spiritually alive**

**C. When you receive an extravagant gift, what do you do?**

**1. You receive it with anticipation; embrace the giver: tell others. Most of all, you put it to good use**

**2. The gift of salvation requires nothing less and much more**

#### SOME QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON:

How would you define grace?

How would you define what it means to be a Christian?

How do you know you are a Christian?

Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?

What has Christ done in in you? Through you?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is your Savior?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is Lord of your life?

How can you share your story of God’s grace more effectively?

**MEMORY VERSE: “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.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)**