

## Grace in My Relationships

- I. Grace-based freedom leads to [holy](#) living.
  - A. On the one hand don't [lose](#) the freedom you have found in Christ.  
Don't fall back into your old way of thinking,  
into the performance-based acceptance with God mentality.
  - B. On the other hand, don't [abuse](#) the freedom you have in the gospel.  
Don't fall into permissiveness either.  
That would be an abuse, a misuse of the freedom you have in the gospel.
    1. We are not free to determine our own standards of behavior.  
The gospel does not free you to sin. Christians do have to obey God,  
and must obey the truth, but [not](#) in order to be saved.
    2. I am not obliged to obey God's law *in order to be saved*.  
I am obliged to obey God's law because I love Him. (John 14:15)
    3. And this love that we have towards God [overflows](#) into loving and serving  
others, rather than selfishly using them, or proudly fighting them. (vs. 15)
  - C. The indwelling Holy Spirit moves believers to [want](#) to live  
the obligations of moral conduct of God's law.
    1. When the Holy Spirit resides within, the motivation to obey is [internal](#).  
The indwelling Holy Spirit guides, restrains, empowers, and energizes us  
to obey God's will.
    2. Our love and respect for God grows reverent fear of Him in our hearts and  
motivates us to choose obedience to Him rather than rebellion against Him.  
We choose His will and ways, over our sinful wills and ways.
    3. The gospel of grace frees us to obey God because we love Him.  
We are freed from sin to Him. (Romans 7:21-23)
- II. Grace-based freedom leads to love and service.
  - A. Christ frees us to serve one another with love and humility.
    1. Jesus washed their feet (John 13), and taught them  
that the greatest among them was the servant (Luke 22:24-27).
    2. Phil 2:5-7 calls upon us to follow His example of humility and service.
  - B. We fulfill the law, that is we [sum it up](#) and we live the heart of it when we do  
Lev. 19:18 and love others as ourselves.
  - C. The Galatian churches were divided and engaged in bitter strife, so Paul calls  
on them to truly live the Law over which they were fighting. He warns that they  
could destroy their churches if they did not lovingly resolve this issue.

- III. Grace-based freedom leads to [kindness](#) and reconciliation.
  - A. In this theological debate over whether Gentiles in the church need to convert  
to Judaism, one side was right and the other side was wrong.  
But neither side was free to be [mean](#), speak unkindly, bear a grudge,  
become bitter, "[bite and devour one another](#)".
  - B. Grace-based freedom looks like the interdependent and loving fellowship  
of God's people.
  - C. Biting and devouring each other leads to disintegration of the fellowship  
and to the disappearance of the local church in that neighborhood.

### Message:

**Grace: when you get it, you give it.**

### So What? Now What? 10 Action Points:

1. Treat others [gracefully](#), rather than biting and devouring them,  
ruining your relationships and hurting your church.
2. What could you have done to give God's grace during that regrettable interaction?  
If you could do it over, what might you have said or done that would have given  
grace, would have communicated love, or would have served the person?
3. Whether you were right about it or wrong about it, is not the issue.  
The issue is how you conducted yourself. Were you nice about it? Were your  
words kind? Did your manner of communication bring a smile to the Lord Jesus?  
  
Did you do it like Ephesians 4:25-27, 29, 31-32 says to?  
  
Did you do it like Colossians 3:12-15 says to?
4. How you treat the person is more important than getting your way, because  
people are more important than winning. Treat others like they are important.
5. How will remembering God's grace *to you* increase your grace toward those  
you find hard to love?
6. You are free from performing to get God's acceptance, kindness and friendship,  
so you are free from [requiring](#) others to perform to get your acceptance, kindness  
and friendship.
7. You are free from performing to get God's love, so you are free from requiring  
others to perform to get your love.
8. Freely you have received grace, so freely give grace.
9. Memorize Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,  
But a harsh word stirs up anger.
10. THINK before you speak: Is it  
**Truthful**  
**Honest**  
Inspiring (uplifting, edifying, [building](#) others up)  
**Necessary**  
**Kind?**