

Trophies of God's Grace

Vessels of God's Grace



We are vessels of God's grace, so we not only receive God's grace but we also give God's grace, and how we extend God's grace to others is a reflection of our maturity in Christ.

Grace = Gift * Grace is something we give, not something one has to earn from another

"Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil...Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." - Ephesians 4:25-27; 29-32 - NKJV

Anger/Offense often comes when we feel someone has wronged us

Grace empowers us to make the right move



MAN'S WAYS TO DEAL WITH OFFENSE:

Isolate it/Bury it/Avoid it ** Carry it - Wear it like a badge ** Spread it - Tell others about it, except the offender

GOD'S WAY TO DEAL WITH OFFENSE:

"..that it may impart grace to the hearers."

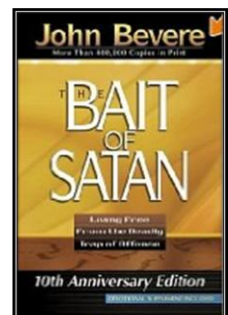
Grace is confidence and strength

Forgive = for*grace

The challenging thing about forgiveness is it is only forgiveness when the other person does not deserve it

What are the right steps to dealing with offenses?

1. Do not be afraid of offenses! You are facing one now, or you will face one in the future. Use grace when an offense arises to mature your self, and mature your relationships in Christ.
2. When you encounter an offense: Pray for them, and extend grace to them by having a forgiving heart toward the brother or sister in the Lord. If this rests your spirit, then let the offense go. If your spirit still can't be at rest, then:
3. Go to the person directly and work it out (Matthew 5:23-24) If you can't work it out between you, the Bible says to then involve a believing mediator to help you with the offense (1 Cor 6:1)
4. Be proactive – If the offender does not approach you, then the offended must approached the offender (Matthew 5:23-24).



Recommended Reading:

The Bait of Satan: Living Free from the Deadly Trap of Offense

By: John Bevere