

IMITATORS OF GOD Eph. 5:1

Grace is the PROVISION of God; FINISHED WORK of God & UNCONDITIONAL FAVOR of God

I. OUR CONCEPT OF GOD DETERMINES THE KIND OF LIFE WE LIVE

- A. Ex.3:1-6; Is. 6:3; Rev. 4:8 God above all things is holy (over 611 times)
- B. Today's error says: 1). No standard (lawlessness); 2). Adjust it (compromise); 3). pretend we meet it (hypocrisy); 4. give up under it (works attitude/trying to meet it in own strength)

II. MUST UNDERSTAND GRACE TO LIVE HOLY

- A. Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness 1 Cor.1:30; 1:2; 6:11; Eph. 1:4; 4:24.
- B. Holiness is a way, a highway Is. 35:8, and a standard Is. 62:9, 10.
- C. The lawless always cry legalism at the mere existence of a standard
 - 1. Legalism is not the existence of a law or the Law of Moses.
 - 2. Legalism is not the existence of a standard, obligation, or a requirement.
 - 3. Legalism is not regularity or regular spiritual disciplines.
 - 4. Legalism is a wrong fleshly motive or attitude toward a law, standard, or regularity for the purpose of exalting oneself, self-glorying, and judging others by it.
- D. We can judge being under grace vs. being legalistic by looking at three things: 1). The standard (Is it the Word and Christ's character) ; 2). The power to meet it (our new spirit nature & enabling grace) ; 3). The motive or "why" behind meeting it (love for God, thankful to Him, for His glory)
- E. There is a standard , law, or expected pattern of behavior even under grace ; but there is sufficient power supplied to meet it; and a right motive which moves us to meet it