What is Grace?

*Include stuff from introduction about the constant and abundant nature of God’s grace. Many of us underestimate it, etc.*

We do not deserve salvation. We are not worthy of a relationship with God. Yet He chooses to love us. He chooses to extend His grace and makes it possible by His own sacrifice. By definition, God’s grace flows from *His* heart. It’s based on *His* bounty, *His* character. We do not merit His grace. We cannot earn it. Yet in His loving-kindness He woos us to Himself and freely pours out His grace through the death of His Son.

After our conversion, on the born again side, God still woos us. Through times of rebellion, complacency, grief, and struggle, God gently draws us back to Himself with cords of love. He will not let us go. He calls us from our wanderings. He longs to protect us from pain of our own making.

The Greek word translated as “grace” in Ephesians 1:6 and 7, is *charis.* Here are some of the facets of God’s grace based on the definition of *charis* from *The Complete Word Study New Testament:[[1]](#endnote-1)*

* Closely related to the Greek word we translate as “joy”
* Divine favor, kindness, acceptance
* Favor bestowed on the undeserving without expectation of return
* Absolute freeness of God’s loving-kindness to men
* Motivated by the bounty and heart of the Giver
* Unearned and unmerited favor
* Forgives sin and affects a person’s sinful nature, shaping her to be used for God’s good purposes
* Results in joy and gratitude in the one who receives it

1. Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study New Testament* (AMG Publishers: USA, 1991), pg. 967. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)