

What about God's grace?

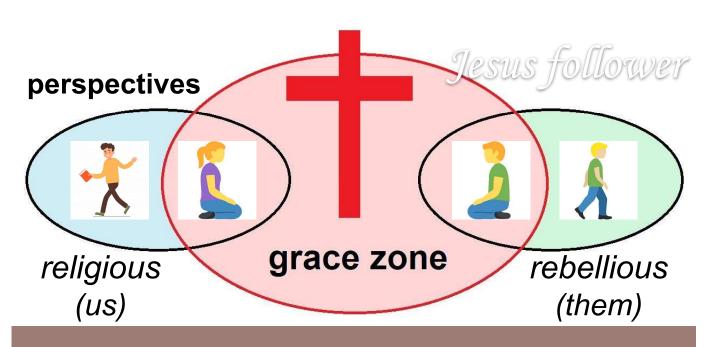




How do I respond to sinners?







Repent or perish!

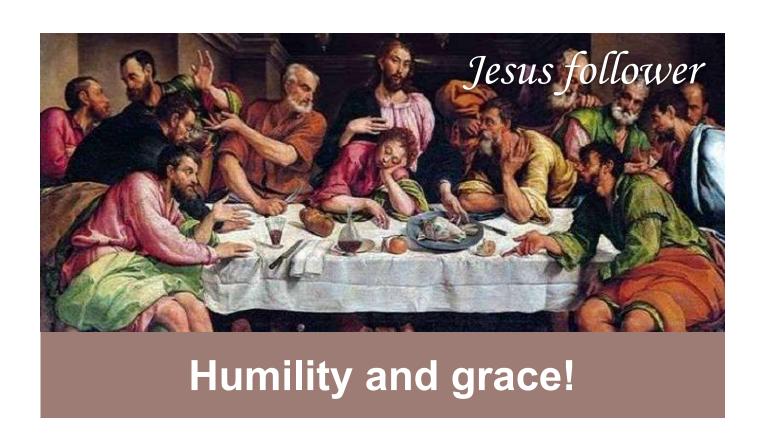














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Lord Jesus, thank you for not treating me as my sins deserve. Help me to humbly receive your grace, and to extend it to others. Amen.



BIBLE READINGS

"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory." (Matthew 12:20)

"Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down." (Luke 13:8-9)

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." (John 15:1-2)

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

"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. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:12-13)

"The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

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THINK ABOUT IT ...

- How does the Lord 'dig around and fertilize' in your life?
- 2. Can you think of people who after many years surrendered to grace?
- 3. If God gives people space and time to grow, shouldn't we?
- 4. What stubborn weed are you still struggling with in your life?
- 5. How can God's patience with us help us be patient with others?