

The Knowledge of the Holy Participants Guide – Week 6

The Main Idea: Your understanding of who God is dictates the course and future of your life.

Discussion Questions:

- **How did the opening video affect you?** “A Grim Tale (Ananias and Sapphira)” can watch on YouTube
- **THE JUSTICE OF GOD.**
Interact with the quote from Tozer and MacArthur. How does this encourage you?
“Justice, when used of God, is a name we give to the way God is, nothing more; and when God acts justly He is not doing so to conform to an independent criterion, but simply acting like Himself in a given situation.” Tozer
“God never judges unless judgment is deserved. He’s a God of absolute justice. And if God judges and God pours out wrath, then there is every confidence in my heart to know that that is exactly what is right and proper in that situation.” MacArthur
 - Read Psalm 89:14, 51:4, Isaiah 2:12,19; 30:12-14, 18, 2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 12:29. What do these passages teach us about God’s Justice?
 - Legislative Justice is requiring of his rational conformity to the moral law.
 - Distributive Justice is His dealing with his accountable creatures according to the requirements of the law in rewarding or punishing them - Psalm 89:14.
 - Rewarding Justice He distributes rewards - James 1:12; 2 Timothy 4:8
 - Vindictive or Punitive Justice He inflicts punishment on account of transgression - 2 Thessalonians 1:6.
 - He Comes to Bring Justice - Psalm 58:11, 67:4, 76:9, 82:8, 94:1–2
 - Grace Came, So Will Judgment - Titus 2:11, Matthew 16:27, John 3:17
 - Meditate on these questions. Is the God you worship one who ever smashes rebellion against Him? When you close your eyes to pray, is there ever a sense that He could, right now, righteously decimate billions of people for refusing and insulting him — that sin really is that repulsive and insidious?
- **THE MERCY OF GOD.**
Interact with the statement below. How does this encourage you?
 - *“The Mercy of God describes His focused character of compassionate forgiveness toward His people, especially in light of their distressful and dire circumstances.” Systematic Theology*
 - *“Mercy is an infinite and inexhaustible energy within the divine nature which disposes God to be actively Compassionate.” Tozer*
 - *“The mercy of God is one of the most precious realities in the world, one of the most revealing themes in all the Bible, and one of the most tragically misunderstood truths about God.” “Wrath is his righteous response to evil, but it is not his heart. “Justice is the Stem; Mercy is the flower.” David Mathis*
 - Moses Saw Mercy - Exodus 33:19, 34:6-7
 - Old Testament Mercy - Isaiah 30:18; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2,
 - David Fell on Mercy - 2 Chronicles 30:9, Psalm 86:5, 103:8, 111:4, 116:5;145:8–9, Psalm 51:1, 2 Samuel 24:13-14
 - Jeremiah Wept for Mercy - Lamentations 4:10, Lamentations 3:19–24
 - Jesus is the Mercy of God made human. He didn’t just teach his people to echo God’s mercy in their lives, but he himself was, and is, the mercy of God to us - Matthew 5:7, 18:33, Luke 6:36, Luke 10:37
 - Paul Marveled at Mercy – Romans 9:22-23
 - Where would we be today without the Mercy of God?
- **THE GRACE OF GOD.**
Interact with the statement below. How does this encourage you?
“As mercy is God’s goodness confronting human misery and guilt, so grace is His goodness directed toward human debt and demerit. It is by His grace that God imputes merit where none previously existed and declares no debt to be where one had been before.” Tozer
“God will always be Himself, and grace is an attribute of His holy being. He can no more hide His grace than the sun can hide its brightness. Men may flee from the sunlight to dark and musty caves of the earth, but they cannot put out the sun. So men may in any dispensation despise the grace of God, but they cannot extinguish it.” Tozer
“God never “owes” grace.” R.C. Sproul

- To fully understand grace, we need to consider who we were without Christ and who we become with Christ. (gotquestions.org)
 - We were born in sin - Psalm 51:5
 - We were guilty of breaking God's holy laws - Romans 3:9–20, 23; 1 John 1:8–10
 - We were enemies of God - Romans 5:6, 10; 8:7; Colossians 1:21
 - We are deserving of death - Romans 6:23
 - We were unrighteous - Romans 3:10
 - Without means of justifying ourselves - Romans 3:20
 - Spiritually, we were destitute, blind, unclean, and dead. Our souls were in peril of the everlasting punishment of Hell.
- But then came grace. God extended His favor to us. (gotquestions.org)
 - Grace is what saves us - Ephesians 2:8
 - Grace is the essence of the gospel - Acts 20:24
 - Grace gives us victory over sin - James 4:6
 - Grace gives us "eternal encouragement and good hope" - 2 Thessalonians 2:16
 - Jesus Christ is the embodiment of grace, coupled with truth - John 1:14
 - The Bible repeatedly calls grace a "gift" - Ephesians 4:7 (gotquestions.org)
- God is gracious to us for the rest of our lives, working within and upon us. The Bible encourages us with many additional benefits that grace secures for every believer: . (gotquestions.org)
 - Grace justifies us before a holy God - Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:6; Titus 3:7
 - Grace provides us access to God to communicate and fellowship with Him - Ephesians 1:6; Hebrews 4:16
 - Grace wins for us a new relationship of intimacy with God - Exodus 33:17
 - Grace disciplines and trains us to live in a way that honors God - Titus 2:11–14; 2 Corinthians 8:7
 - Grace grants us immeasurable spiritual riches - Proverbs 10:22; Ephesians 2:7
 - Grace helps us in our every need - Hebrews 4:16
 - Grace is the reason behind our every deliverance - Psalm 44:3–8; Hebrews 4:16
 - Grace preserves us and comforts, encourages, and strengthens us - 2 Corinthians 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:16–17; 2 Timothy 2:1
- **What's the difference between Justice, Mercy, and Grace? How does this encourage you?**
 - JUSTICE is getting the bad that we deserve. (getting exactly what we deserve, which in our case is death)
 - MERCY is NOT getting the bad that we deserve. (again, death)
 - GRACE is getting good that we do not deserve. (eternal life, plus all the good that God wants to give us)

Action:

Interact with the statement below. How does this encourage you?

The Cross was at once the most horrible and the most beautiful example of God's Justice when His Wrath was poured out on Jesus. It was the most just and the most merciful and gracious act in history.

PRAYER REQUESTS