

TRUTH

REALITY

MEANING

PURPOSE

HOPE

The Nature of God *and* True Grace

What kind of God is the God who gives grace?

*“Your word
is truth.”*

JOHN 17:17



Dr. Christopher Cone
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The Biblical God

“In the beginning God...”

Biblical theism

The particular God who identifies Himself in Scripture

We learn His character through His self-revelation.

Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:18–32



The source of knowledge

God provides the foundation for knowing Him and His world.

God's Revelation and Our Interpretation



The Genesis and Job study

94 passages examined

81 plain-sense responses
0 requiring a meaning beyond that sense

Words, grammar, and historical context
guide our understanding.

Genesis 6:13–22; Job 40–42

Knowable and Unfathomable

KNOWABLE

God has revealed Himself.
We can know what He communicates.

UNFATHOMABLE

His wisdom exceeds ours.
We do not know everything He knows.

Real knowledge of God
can coexist with humility.

Romans 11:33–36; Isaiah 55:8–9

What God Reveals About Himself (Self-Revealing)

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Transcendent

Personal (Imminent)

Righteous

Just

Merciful

Wise

Omniscient

Responsive

Sovereign

Omnipotent

Patient

Loving

Gracious

Disciplinary

His grace expresses the same character revealed in His holiness and justice.

Job 34:10–15; Romans 11:33–36; John 3:16

Is God a Jerk? — What is at stake in God's judging?

Uzzah. Achan. Moses.

Ananias and Sapphira. Job. Hell?

Creature perspective

Limited experience
A brief view of life

Whose perspective will we trust?

Creator perspective

Sovereign authority
Knowledge beyond our experience

John 10:18; Romans 9:14; Proverbs 3:5–6

The Problem of Evil

God knows all.

God has all power.

God is wholly good.

Why does
evil exist?

Door #1? Emphasizes Sovereignty

Door #2? Emphasizes Free Will

Door # 3? Emphasize Divine Sovereignty & Human Responsibility

Why Do Bad Things Happen?

The friends' inference

01

Job suffers

02

→ **Job must
be guilty**

03

→ **God must
be punishing him**

Elihu: correction, His world, or lovingkindness

Job's suffering exposes the limits
of an explanation built on appearances.

Job 1-2; 34:10-15; 37:13; 42:1-7

God's Hidden Ways and Revealed Truth

Romans 11:33

His ways are beyond
our full comprehension.

Ephesians 3:14–19

Believers can grow in
understanding His love.

His word accomplishes His purpose. Isaiah 55:10–11

We can trust what He has revealed
while continuing to learn.

Romans 11:33; Ephesians 3:14–19; Isaiah 55:8–11

Grace and God's Character

BIBLICAL (TRUE) GRACE

God acts graciously as an expression of who He is and outworking of His purpose.

God's revealed character
governs our definition of grace.

Romans 3:21–8:39; Romans 11:33–36

Judgment and Grace

God warns of judgment

Genesis 2:17
Revelation 20:14–15

God offers mercy

Titus 3:5
1 Peter 1:3
Forgiveness reveals His compassion.

Judgment and Grace are both expressions of His Holiness.

The reality of judgment deepens
our appreciation of forgiveness.

Genesis 2:17; 3:4; Romans 5:10–18; Revelation 20:14–15

The God Who Judges Justly

David in Psalm 7

Appeals to God's revealed standards
Submits himself to judgment
Prays within the Mosaic covenant

Stephen in Acts 7

Prays for his persecutors
Entrusts judgment to God
Models the church-age emphasis

Context explains the difference in their prayers.

God's standards remain high.
His mercy remains great.

Psalm 7:3–12; Acts 7:60; 2 Peter 3:9

Costly to the Giver, Free to the Recipient

THE GIVER

Father's gift of Christ
Christ's self-giving

THE RECIPIENT

Life received
through faith

Grace expresses who God is
and what He freely provides.

John 10:18; John 3:16; Romans 3:21–26



In Christ...

God Revealed in Christ

The eternal Word

John 1:1

The image of the invisible God

Colossians 1:15–17

The exact representation of His nature

Hebrews 1:3

Grace is expressed through
the work of a divine Person.

John 1:1; Colossians 1:15–17; Hebrews 1:3

Jesus Christ Is God

The Word

John 1:1

The image of the invisible God

Colossians 1:15–17

Our great God and Savior

Titus 2:13

My Lord and my God

John 20:28

Before Abraham, I am

John 8:56, 58

The One who accomplishes salvation
is Himself God.

The Lord and Savior

2 Peter 3:18

The First and the Last

Revelation 22:13

The Christ, the Son of God

Matthew 16:16

The exact representation

Hebrews 1:3

In the form of God

Philippians 2:6

The Character of Christ at the Cross

Christ willingly gave His life.

His death provides for our sin.
His promise offers life to the believer.

Holiness

Justice

Love

Grace

Christ's character comes into view
in His own self-giving.

John 10:18; 1 John 2:2; John 3:16; Philippians 2:6–8



In the Spirit...

The Spirit's Gracious Work in Believers

He baptized us

1 Corinthians 12:13

He sanctified us

2 Thessalonians 2:13

He sealed us

Ephesians 1:13–14

God's gracious provision continues
in the believer's life and service.

Gifted, Part 1, pp. 24–29

He lives in us

Romans 8:9

He fills us

Ephesians 5:17–18

He works in us

1 Corinthians 12:7

God's Character and Our Confidence

01

**God
reveals**

02

→ **We
know**

03

→ **Christ
saves**

04

→ **The Spirit
indwells**

We trust the God who gives grace.

Confidence in what He has revealed.
Humility where He has not told us everything.

Romans 11:33–36; Isaiah 55:8–11; Gifted, Part 1, p. 29



In the Spirit...

God's Doxological Purpose and True Grace: Ephesians 1

01

**The Father's
Actions? Why**

02

**The Son's
Actions? Why?**

03

**The Spirit's
Actions? Why?**

04

**Ephesians
1:6,12,14**

**When we distort His grace,
we distort His character and His glory.**

His expressions of grace are demonstrative of
His doxological purpose.

Romans 11:33–36; Isaiah 55:8–11; Gifted, Part 1, p. 29

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