

EPISODE: 577

TITLE: **Advent Week 4: We Can Experience Love Because God is Gracious**

God is gracious so we don't have to prove ourselves or earn anything from him! Because of his grace, not only do we not HAVE to perform, we don't GET to perform.

Here are three key things to believe and consider about how you can truly experience love...

1. **When we don't believe that God is truly gracious we try to prove ourselves;** to ourselves... and we cannot feel good about ourselves until we've put some distance between us and our and last 'big sin'; we try to prove ourselves to others... so we wear masks to hide our real selves from people; and ultimately we try and prove ourselves to God... we think we must **do** something to make God look and act favorably towards us, because deep down we want to take the credit. If I **do** this, then God owes me!
2. **Unless we understand what we deserved to get from God, then the gift of God's Son won't seem so great.** If we don't need someone to satisfy the righteous wrath of God on our behalf, if we can earn the favor of God by the things we **do**, if we don't need a savior—a rescuer, then God sending us his son Jesus is just a nice thought. We must first sit in the reality of our need before we can understand the greatness of God's grace and fully experience the magnitude of his love for us.
3. **The picture of the prodigal son from Luke 15 is a beautiful picture of our heavenly Father's love and grace toward us.** When you contemplate this parable, which of the two sons do you believe best sums up your relationship with God? Do you believe he doesn't owe you a thing, but you know you can always return home to him in confidence? Or are you more like the older brother who secretly (or not so secretly) believes that you are a pretty good person and have earned your Father's love? (He owes me!) Pray and ask God to reveal your heart and beliefs in this.

If you are interested in being in coaching and mentorship with Caesar, and his wife Tina, to learn a lifestyle of discipleship and mission, new cohorts are beginning soon. Start experiencing greater spiritual freedom and relational peace today!

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Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

~Caesar