JUSTIFYING GRACE

Pray with me “Prayer To the H.S. found on p. 48 of your worship booklet

33 years ago- cousin Steve invited me again to run in a 6 mile race in Butler, Oh

That day I determined I was going to be a runner

No high tech shoes/ Cool Max/ pronation/ Hydration/ Runner’s world

THE DAY I DECIDED TO BE A RUNNER WAS I A RUNNER? YES

My name is Ken Kelley, and the title of this talk is JUSTIFYING GRACE.

THEME OF SCRIPTURE IS GOD’S RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANITY

1. **GOD OFFERS US A RELATIONSHIP OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND GRACE.**
2. In the beginning God created all things, including us, and saw that it was good. (Gen. 1-2)
3. Wrong choices separate us from God and diminish our spiritual lives, Adam and Eve (c.3)

But God’s gift of love and grace are greater than all our wrong choices.

EXAMPLE: A MOTHER’S LOVE

1. Since God designed us for a living relationship with Him, nothing else can satisfy our soul,

Not money, sex, children, work.

Scripture is the story of God calling us back into the relationship for which we were created.

D. Jesus called people to accept the relationship God offers them. MATTHEW 11:28

***“COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST”***

That rest can only come through a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not a system of rules and regulations, but a personal and vital relationship of love.

What does that acceptance of the relationship look like?

1. **OUR ACCEPATANCE OF THE RELATIONSHIP**
2. Justifying grace is at work the moment we say YES to the relationship God offers us in Christ.

Prodigal son returning home LUKE 15:20-24

Courtship saying “I DO” changes the relationship

The Day I Committed to being a runner/ I have become a better runner

1. **FAITH & 0= SALVATION, *Ephesians 2:8-9-“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast”***

Call it being save, conversion, being born again

MY STORY: MOTORCYCLE STORY

SALVATION IS INSTANTANEOUS AND CONTINUOUS- “I was saved by grace, I am saved by grace, and I will be saved by grace

1. Converson continues as we keep saying yes to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

This process involves us as we:

1. Come to understand ourselves better and acknowledge our continual need for Christ

2. Understand God better and seek God’s will for our lives.

3. Practice the disciplines of prayer, fasting, Scripture reading, and meditation.

**3. GOD’S ACTIVITY AND OUR RESPONSE**

A. Justifying grace is a double acceptance

God said yes to us in creation and again on the cross. Romans 5:6-11

1. God addresses our intellect, we respond in faith. Faith is a reasonable response to God’s revelation.

Romans 12:1-2, Eph. 4:17-24

1. God appeals to our will, by grace we are free to choose.

God will not force you to spend eternity with Him

Christian faith is an act of trust and self denial. We take up the cross and follow a crucified Lord.

1. God touches our hearts, however, we do not depend upon feelings or trust in our emotions. RUNNING
2. God call us to be disciples of J.C., we respond with trust and obedience
   1. Saving faith is the foundation of obedience and good works, not the result of them

John 14:15-17

2. The disciples experienced the life giving grace of God and invite us to receive it

as well. Acts 3:1-8

1. The mission of every believer is to join in God’s mission and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Matt. 28:18-20

1. As we follow the spiritual disciplines of Christ, we become more like him

JUSTIFICATION: Just as if I’d never sinned

1. **INTRODUCTION OF AGAPE**

ONE WAY GOD MOVES US TO THE POINT OF CONVERSION IS THROUGH THE LOVING ACTS OF OTHER CHRISTIANS

THIS KIND OF GOD LOVE IS CALLED AGAPE, THE GREEK WORD FOR GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL, GRACIOUS LOVE. WE CAN NEVER EARN IT. IT IS A GIFT OF GRACE.

**DURING THIS WEEKEND, CHRISTIANS WILL EXPRESS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TO YOUBY PRAYING, SERVING, AND PERFORMING OTHER ACTS OF AGAPE- SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW MORE CLEARLY HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU.**

**WE WILL NOW SHARE WITH YOU WHAT AGAPE IS ALL ABOUT!**

**DECALORES**