

Behold Your God, Part 10: The Mercy and Grace of God





Behold Your God Schedule

- May 27: Grace/Mercy
- June 10: Love/Jealousy
- June 24: Holiness/Justice
- July 8: Affections/Impassibility
- July 15: Beauty/Glory



John Newton



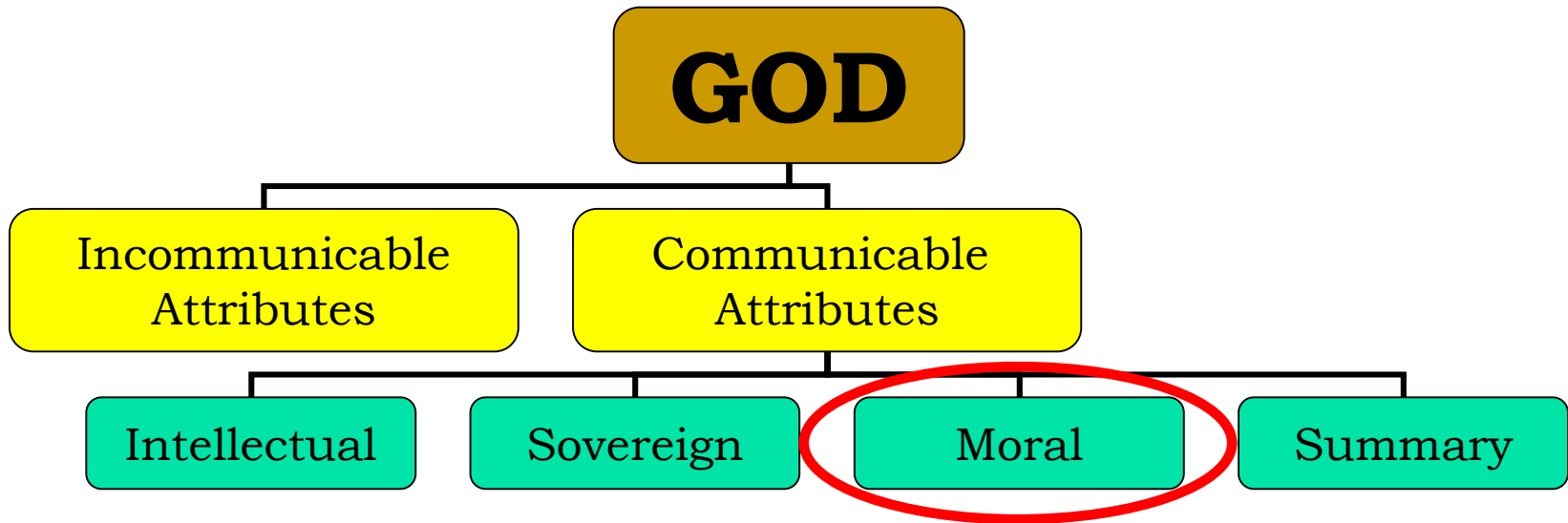
1725-1807



John Newton

Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
T'was blind but now I see

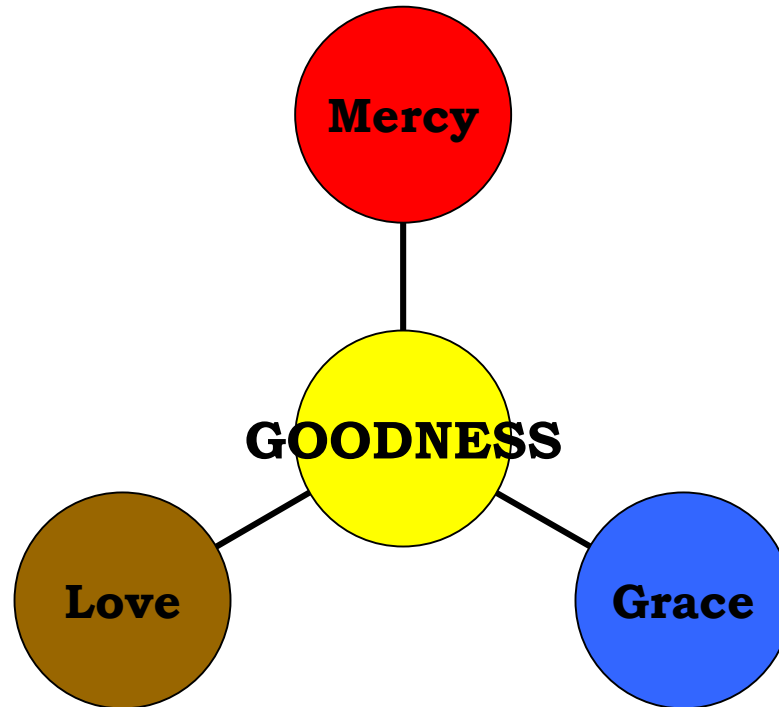
Classifying the Attributes of God





Mercy, Grace, and Love

Often seen as stemming from God's **Goodness**





Mercy, Grace, and Love

GOODNESS



LOVE



GRACE



MERCY



Mercy, Grace, and Love

GOODNESS

God's benevolence which prompts Him to deal bountifully and kindly with all his creatures



Mercy, Grace, and Love

GOODNESS



LOVE

the goodness of God as it is focused on
His people



Mercy, Grace, and Love

GOODNESS



LOVE



GRACE

Berkhof: “the unmerited goodness or love of God to those who have forfeited it, and are by nature under a sentence of condemnation.”



Mercy, Grace, and Love

GOODNESS



LOVE



GRACE



MERCY

Berkhof: “the goodness or love of God shown to those who are in misery or distress.”



Mercy, Grace, and Love

- **Psalm 32:3-4:** “When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away, Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.”



Mercy, Grace, and Love

GOODNESS: God's benevolence to all His creation



LOVE: God's goodness to His elect covenant people



GRACE: God's goodness to those who deserve judgment



MERCY: God's goodness to those who are suffering under His judgment

Classifications of Mercy and Grace

	Mercy	Grace
General	General Mercy	Common Grace
Specific	Sovereign Mercy	Special Grace

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The Mercy of God

- Mercy is used when speaking of those **in misery and distress**
 - **2 Samuel 24:14:** “I am in great distress, let us fall into the hand of the Lord for His mercy is great.”
 - **Matthew 9:27:** “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”
 - **2 Corinthians 1:3:** “The Father of mercies and God of all comfort”

Classifications of Mercy and Grace

	Mercy	Grace
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The General Mercy of God

- **General Mercy:** is shown in **Creation**
- **Psalm 145:9:** “His tender mercies are over all His works.”



The General Mercy of God

- **General Mercy:** is shown in **Providence**
 - **Matthew 5:45:** “For He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.”

Classifications of Mercy and Grace

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The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **Sovereign Mercy:** shown to the **elect**
 - **Romans 9:23:** “He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy.”



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- New Testament
 - Eleos: being stirred when one sees someone else who is unfairly or unjustly afflicted
- Old Testament
 - Raham: a sympathetic view of another's distress, motivating a helpful action



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **Raham—Mercy Personified**

- Eye
- Heart
- Mouth
- Hand



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **The Eye of Mercy**

- Mercy notices need and distress.
- **Psalm 22:24:** “For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.”



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **The Heart of Mercy**

- A sympathetic heart
- **Isaiah 63:9:** ‘In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.’”



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **The Mouth of Mercy**

- Mercy Speaks

- **Isaiah 49:13:** “Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord has comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.”



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **The Hand of Mercy**

- Mercy Relieves Suffering
- **Psalm 34:19:** “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.”



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **Lamentations 3:22-23:** The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”
- **1 Chronicles 16:34:** “Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for *He is good!* For His mercy *endures* forever.”



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **Hesed**

- Lovingkindness
- Mercy
- Compassion
- Steadfast love
- Loyal love
- Covenant love



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **The Root of Hesed:** Covenant Love
 - **Deuteronomy 7:9** says, “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.”
- **Hesed:** God has a covenant love for his people that emphasizes faithfulness, truth, compassion, goodness and kindness



The Sovereign Mercy of God

- **Application:**

- Parents have compassion on your children
- **Psalm 103:13-14:** “Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are *but* dust.”
- Distinguish between weakness and sin

Classifications of Mercy and Grace

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The Grace of God

- **1 Peter 5:10:** “The God of all grace.”
- **The Baker compact dictionary of theological terms says,** “As an attribute of God, His goodness expressed to those who deserve condemnation. Grace is God’s de-merited favor.”

Classifications of Mercy and Grace

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Common Grace

- The non-saving grace of God which extends to every person everywhere to one degree or another



Common Grace

- Answers for us 2 important questions:
 - **1.** In light of God's justice, how can there be so much kindness and blessing extended to those who deserve justice?
 - **2.** In light of total depravity, how can there be so much relative good that comes through depraved people?



Common Grace

- God restrains **sin**
 - **2 Thessalonians 2:7** says, God restrains “the secret power of lawlessness.”
 - **Job 1:12**, God only allows Satan to afflict Job to God’s own design.
 - **Romans 13**, God institutes government, law enforcement, and civil code.



Common Grace

- God restrains His **wrath**
 - First exercise of common grace:
Genesis 3: a delay of judgment
 - Common grace is the platform for
special grace



Common Grace

- God gives **temporary blessings** to all
 - **Acts 14:17 says:** “He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”



Common vs. Special Grace

Common Grace	Special Grace
Temporary	Eternal
Non-salvific	Salvific
Universal	Specific
Resistible	Irresistible

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The Grace of God

- The Grace of God is Free and unmerited
- **Romans 3:23-24:** “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by his grace.”



The Grace of God

“Grace is a provision for men who are so fallen that they cannot lift the axe of justice, so corrupt that they cannot change their own natures, so averse to God that they cannot turn to Him, so blind that they cannot see Him, so deaf that they cannot hear Him, and so dead that He Himself must open their graves and lift them into resurrection.”

--G.S. Bishop



The Grace of God

- The Grace of God is Sovereign
 - **Exodus 33:19:** God says, “I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.”



The Grace of God

- The Grace of God was decreed by the Father from eternity past
 - **2 Timothy 1:9:** “God, who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”



The Grace of God

- The Grace of God is fully revealed in His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ.
 - **John 1:17:** “The law was given by Moses, grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”



The Grace of God

- The grace of God is proclaimed in the gospel.
 - **Acts 20:24:** Paul says, “so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.”



The Grace of God

- The Grace of God is communicated through His Spirit.
 - **Zechariah 12:10** calls the Holy Spirit, “The Spirit of grace.”



The Grace of God

- **Pink:** “the Father is the fountain of grace, the Son is the only channel of grace, the Gospel is the publisher of grace, the Spirit is the bestower of grace.



Application

- The Grace of God is not an excuse for committing sin but a motivation for fighting sin.
 - **Romans 6:1-2:** “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? **2** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”



Application

- Remember that God is gracious



Application

- **John Owen:** “Men are afraid to have good thoughts of God. Is it too hard to think of God as good, gracious, tender, kind, loving? I speak of saints. They can judge Him hard, austere, severe, almost implacable, and fierce. Is not this soul-deceit from Satan? Was it not his design from the beginning to inject such thoughts of God? Assure yourself, then, there is nothing more acceptable to the Father than for us to keep up our hearts to Him as the eternal fountain of all that rich grace which flows out to sinners in the blood of Jesus.”

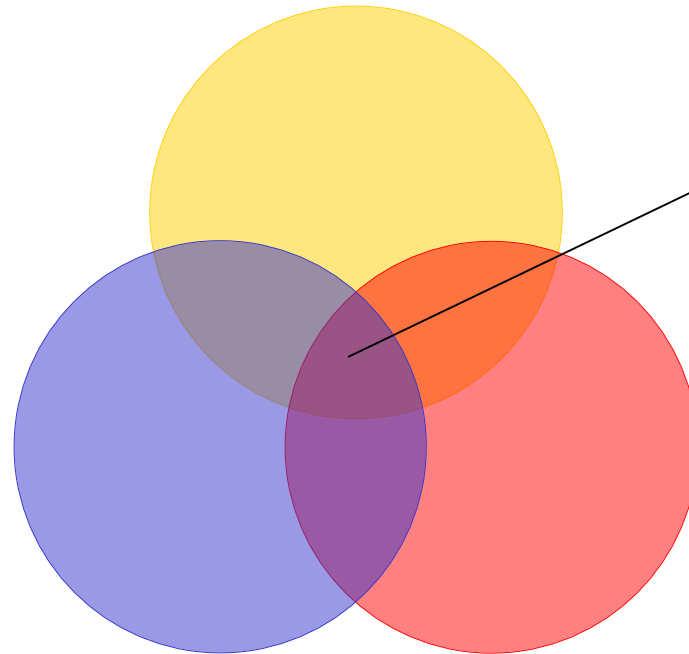






Mercy, Grace, and Love

Mercy



SALVATION

Grace

Patience