

Grace & Holiness, The Wesley Way

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – October 9, 2022

[Romans 5:20-21, 6:1-2](#)

5:20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

You can sum up Wesley's theology in 2 words:

GRACE & HOLINESS.

However, there is tension between Grace & Holiness.

GRACE:

- God's favor toward the unworthy.
- Undeserved & unearned favor of God.
- It's the free gift from God.
- The work of God alone. i.e. Creation, Justification & new birth.
- We cannot transform our nature and make ourselves holy.
- Only God can do that.

[Ephesians 2:8-9](#)

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

[Galatians 2:21](#)

"I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

HOLINESS (HOLY LOVE):

There is tension between Holy & Love.

Holy:

- Everything we do we should be aiming at God.
- To be a peculiar people.
- Set apart by God.
- Separation from the world.

Love:

- The love of God and neighbor.
- Embracing love, seeks communion.
- Going out into the world for mission.

Church (Ecclesia): "called out assembly"

- Called out from the world and yet
- Called back into the world for mission.

[1 Peter 2:9](#)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God (KJV-peculiar people), that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- We must not separate holiness from love.
- We also must not separate love from holiness.
- They must work together.

In the same way, Grace & Holiness must work together.

There are inherent dangers associated with only emphasizing one over the other.

Perfect demonstration of Grace & Holiness coming together is...

The CROSS.