

ERIC LUDY

## Grace for Dealing with People

7-29-12

### Grace

*The Labor of God on Man's Behalf*

But **by the grace of God** I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

**1 Corinthians 15:10**

For by **grace** are you saved . . .

**Ephesians 2:8**

*Grace is not just evidenced at the Cross, but has been made eternally available through the Cross. This Grace is Ever-Present, Always Available, Always Accessible, Amazingly Sufficient for Every Good Work, Potently Efficacious, and Divinely Effective in Procuring its Ends*

### Faith

*The Trusting Gaze of Man upon His God*

For by grace are you saved **through faith** . . .

**Ephesians 2:8**

*Faith is the channel through which Grace flows into the Life of Man and thusly into this Earth. Faith is the response of the soul to beholding the Truth, Reality, and Fact of God's Being. First a man **knows**, and thusly **reckons**, and then **yields and presents** his life unto God, and then **exerts** His souls willfully in absolute and unquestioning **obedience** to the Commands of His new Lord and Master.*

## Love (Agapē)

*The Behavior and Attitude of God Expressing itself in Man*

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh **by love**.

**Galatians 5:6**

*The action of Faith causes Grace to overtake, empower, and renovate the believing life - turning the body of a man into the workshop of God. The result is an alteration of behavior and attitude. The result is God's divine behavior begins to manifest and demonstrate itself in and through the consecrated saint of God.*

## Agapē . . . The Chief End

Q. 1. *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

**Agapē** IS the Glory of God - the full weighty expression of His Person, His Beauty, His Holiness, His Majesty, His Purity, His Justice, His Mercy, His Kindness, His Wrath, and His Power. Agape is God and God is Agape - Agape is God-behavior, God-thoughts, God-actions, God-nature, God-character, God-ethics, God-compassion, and God's manner with Sin. And it is this Agape that reveals God.

*Agapē* is the Great Work of Grace and the Great End of Faith

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your *faith arete*; and to *arete gnōsis*;

And to *gnōsis egkrateia*; and to *egkrateia hypomonē*;

and to *hypomonē eusebeia*; And to *eusebeia*

*philadelphia*; and to *philadelphia agapē*. For if these

things be in you, and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never fall:

#### **2 Peter 1:4-10**

### Introducing the House of Grace (The House of Seven Rooms)

giving all diligence, add to your *faith* . . .

1. *arete*;
2. and to *arete gnōsis*;
3. And to *gnōsis egkrateia*;
4. and to *egkrateia hypomonē*;
5. and to *hypomonē eusebeia*;

6. And to *eusebeia philadelphia*;

7. and to *philadelphia agapē*.

## Exploring the House of Promise

1. *Arete* - The Grace for Overcoming Sin and Walking in Triumph
2. *Gnōsis* - The Grace for Understanding Truth and Walking in Faith
3. *Egkrateia* - The Grace for Guarding the Soul from Sin's Encroachment and walking in Self-Control
4. *Hypomonē* - The Grace for Endurance, Perseverance, and Immovability
5. *Eusebeia* - The Grace for Honorable Action
6. *Philadelphia* - The Grace for People
7. *Agapē* - The Grace for Walking in All the Graces and for Revealing God's very Nature and Behavior Always

## Philadelphia - (Fe-la-del-fia)

- The Grace for People
- The Grace for Family
- The Grace for the Church
- The Grace for dealing with the Unlovely in those you are called to Love
- The Grace for showcasing Love in relationship with those that are often Unlovely

# Loving the Little Years

*Motherhood in the Trenches*

by Rachel Jankovic

## Chapter Nine

### **To the Fifth Power**

Something we discovered when we had twins is the concept of the “bulk effect.” Our OB told us in advance that having the twins was not going to make us twice as busy (we had two at the time), but rather exponentially busier, and he was right. Every time you add a child to your family, you are not just increasing the total sum - you are exponentially increasing.

The thing that we had to realize was that the twins were not super fussy babies - there was just twice as much baby fussing. Since we cheated and skipped right to four children, I don’t really know about the three-kid scene, but I am pretty sure that three is the tipping point. Up until three, it is easy to see your kids as individuals and their actions as exclusively their own. After three, they all start running together a bit.

Let’s say that you are trying to get ready for church, and one child is disobedient (something petty, like not putting on their shoes when you told them to). They wandered off and got distracted and loitered in the living room for a minute. In that minute the baby starts crying, you see the clock and realize that you are going to be late, you can’t find the wet wipes or the baby’s shoe, which you know you put on the table last night. The baby is still screaming, so you are trying to rock the car seat with your foot while doing the hair of your middle child who will not stop bouncing. You are shouting out to your husband to see if he knows what happened to the baby shoe, probably punctuated with “Sit still. Stop. Don’t wiggle.” As it turns out, your husband is out looking for someone’s lost shoe in the car where they are prone to remove them, so you get no response. You begin to have evil thoughts about shoes. You start feeling pressure, if you know

what I mean. The tension is mounting. You may very well be feeling hot and sweaty while your coffee is getting cold on the counter, untouched. At this moment, the child who didn't put his shoes on comes wandering back, refreshed with a nice spell of magna-doodling. What do you think happens?

You take that shred of guilt and then harness onto it the stress of the whole situation. You make your child into a scapegoat, a way for you to release all of your tension and stress onto someone who you feel deserved it. He did, after all, disobey. Your massive overreaction was just, because disobeying is wrong. So this neat little trick is happening in your head - the consequences for his sin go way up, and the consequences for yours go way down. It is simply a classic shifting of the blame. **The situation is crazy, but you are the person responsible to get the grace to deal with it.**

Oftentimes you won't even discipline the sin that did occur, because you are wanting to leave this situation with the feeling that you were full of grace toward that child who maliciously magna-doodled. Next time, you say, you will get spankings. This time, you will just have to bear the weight of my discontent, my anger, and my lack of self-control. I will vent on you instead of dealing with myself. So let that be a lesson to you about quick obeying. Do it just like I do - that is, fail completely if you get distracted.

If you took the actions of the each individual child, nothing big happened. One kid took her shoes off last night in the car. One kid keeps bouncing when you are trying to fix her hair, one kid had a dirty diaper, and one kid magna-doodled instead of putting on shoes, and the baby just wants some attention. And of course the disobeying is wrong. The combined effect is certainly ripe, especially when you add in the things that Mom and Dad were responsible for. The time. The lost clothing that could have been

found last night. Not noticing the distracted disobedience right away. Not getting up early enough to drink your coffee. **Not getting grace to deal with it as soon as it started heating up.**

The situation is not a sin. It is merely the combined effect of a lot of people. And just because you can pin down one sin in the batch does not mean that child is responsible for the situation. Your children are not a situation. They are individuals. Disciplining an individual for a collective situation is a great way to alienate your children. It is not only unjust and unkind, but it is untrue to the Gospel. Christ takes our sins; He does not load us down with someone else's. He sees what we have done and takes it from us and bears it with Him to the Cross. What you just did was toss your burden of guilt onto a child to have her carry it. Well, what is she supposed to do with it, other than be beaten down by it?

So, the “bulk effect” is what happens when there are a lot of children, and it will happen from time to time. Individually, there is nothing to worry about. As a group, it feels as though we are careening toward destruction. If you have a bunch of little kids (or even a few), you will need to not only be aware of this fact of life, but build up your immunity to it. **You will need to see it happening and get the grace for it in advance.** You will need to develop some skills for coping with it that do not involve blaming your children.

## Philadelphia - (Fe-la-del-fia)

*(Brotherly Love; Brotherly Kindness) Washing the feet of the saints. Seeking the benefit of those who believe. Laboring to see the Body of Christ built strong. Carrying those sick with the palsy to the feet of*

*Jesus. Honoring others above yourself. Seeking the profit of the saints, even if it means you go without.  
It means, deep abiding affection for those considered brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.*

## Eric - A Man In Need of Grace

A quick study in the life of yours truly

## Eric - The People-Loving Machine

Who needs grace when you are Eric Ludy?

## Eric - The Farmer

Who needs grace for dealing with people if you just become a Potato farmer?

## Eric - The Sword-Swinging Husband

Who needs grace for marriage when you already have grace for marriage?

## The Shepherd

He must be hostile towards the predators and kindly affectionate towards his lambs

## The Argument for Affection

Christianity is not just head-knowledge, it is heart-engagement

Be kindly affectioned one to another with philadelphia;

in honor preferring one another;

**Romans 12:10**



But as touching **philadelphia** you need not that I write unto you: for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

**1 Thessalonians 4:9**

Let **philadelphia** continue.

**Hebrews 13:1**

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned **philadelphia**, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

**1 Peter 1:22**

## Jesus is our Philadelphia

If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**1 John 4:12**

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

**1 Thessalonians 3:12**

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loves not his brother abides in death. Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**1 John 3:14-16**

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**John 13:34-35**

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith grows exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other abounds.

**2 Thessalonians 1:3**

## Affectionate Love in the Old Testament

*'Ahabah - A-huh-vuh*

The deep affections of knitted closeness, the tendernesses of covenant givenness - a.k.a. Love

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was

*'Ahabah.*

**Song of Solomon 2:4**

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting *'Ahabah*: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

**Jeremiah 31:3**

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will  
rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His '*Ahabah*', He will joy  
over thee with singing.

**Zephaniah 3:17**

## David - The Beloved

D - a-huh-vuh - D

## The Choice of Jonathan

**1 Samuel 18:1** - And it came to pass, when he had made an end of  
speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of  
David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

**1 Samuel 18:3-4** - Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he  
loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that  
was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword,  
and to his bow, and to his girdle.

**1 Samuel 19:1-2** - And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his  
servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan Saul's son delighted  
much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeks to  
kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning,  
and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

**1 Samuel 19:4** - And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father,  
and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David;  
because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been  
to thee-ward very good:

**1 Samuel 20:3-4** - And David swore moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knows that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death. Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desires, I will even do it for thee.

**1 Samuel 20:16-18** - So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies. And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul. Then Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

**1 Samuel 20:27-28** - And it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor today? And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem:

**1 Samuel 20:30** - Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?

**1 Samuel 20:32-34** - And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done? And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David. So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

**1 Samuel 23:16** - And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

**1 Samuel 23:18** - And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

**2 Samuel 1:26** - I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

## Passing the Love of Women

Supernatural Love is Greater than Natural Love

## The Mighties - A Picture of Men Who Love

### The Love Burn

*Joab rushing on Jebus*

### The Love Mission

*The Three rushing on Bethlehem*

### The Love Stand

*The Heroic Stand at Pasdammin*

### The Love Risk

*Jashobeam and the 800 Dead*

### The Love Sacrifice

*Life in the Cave of Adullam - Sleeping where He sleeps, Living where He lives, Going where He goes*

These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

**Revelation 14:4**

## Affectionate Love in the New Testament

### Splagchnon (Splog-hawn)

*God's tenderest affections - His deepest and warmest mercies toward us who believe*

Through the **Splagchnon** of mercies of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us . . .

**Luke 1:78**

For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the

**Splagchnon** of Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 1:8**

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved , **Splagchnon** of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering;

**Colossians 3:12**

## Philadelphia - The Grace to Love with “Splagchnonian” Affection

- Those nearest

- Those dearest
- The fellow believers
- The lost
- The unlovely
- The persecutors

## The Philadelphian Barricade

Aware of the Seven Javelins of the Old Man that Kill Affection and Intimacy

- Javelin #1 - Grievance, unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment
- Javelin #2 - Accusation (criticism, implied responsibility for a problem, fault-finding)
- Javelin #3 - Irritation and frustration (shortness of fuse)
- Javelin #4 - Anxiety, words to strike fear, evil words of foreboding and doom
- Javelin #5 - Over-statements, Extreme statements, words like *always*, *never*, and the like
- Javelin #6 - Anger, slights, diminishment, harsh or hurtful words
- Javelin #7 - Threats of leaving or abandonment, threats of harm, threats of exposure of secrets

## A Weapon of our Warfare that is Mighty

Adding Philadelphian Grace to our Spiritual Arsenal

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loves is born of God, and knows God.

**1 John 4:7**

If a man say, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loves God love his brother also.

**1 John 4:20-21**

Whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loves Him that begat loves him also that is begotten of Him.

**1 John 5:1**

## The Philadelphian Phalanx

When the Church walks in all the Graces

*[excerpted from the Alaskan Park Service official website]*

No other animal has the defense method of musk oxen. When danger threatens they do not run away. Muskoxen are known above all else for their clever defense against wolves or other predators. When they see danger approaching, muskoxen run together and they all try to face the threat. If there is one predator—a lone wolf for example—the defense strategy is to form a line. If a wolf pack surrounds the group, the muskoxen will form a tight circle, all facing outward, forming a phalanx of heads and horns. Calves will hug next to their mothers, or huddle inside the circle. Occasionally, one muskox will charge the enemy, but will quickly rejoin the others.

If the herd doesn't run, but stays together in a tight defensive formation, their defense is virtually impenetrable. A muskox caught away from the herd or separated from the others is much easier to kill.







But whoso hath this world's good, and sees his brother have need, and  
shuts up his **Splagchnon** of compassion from him, how dwells the  
love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in  
tongue; but in deed and in truth.

**1 John 3:17-18**