

Confirmation Class

Grace is the love of God that we can never explain. Eternal Life isn't just about after we die; it begins now. Accepting Jesus as Savior, thru God's **Grace**, is not just about getting to Heaven. It's a changed heart right now! It allows God to work in us now toward the destination (Heaven).

Types of **Grace**:

Prevenient Grace (pronounced pre-VEEN-e-ent): God's grace that is ours even before we believe in Jesus; this grace is God's Action in our lives that starts before we even ask for it just because God loves us so very much. God wants everyone to be saved.

Justifying Grace (or Justification): Reconciles and restores us to a relationship with God when we realize that Jesus died for ME! This is the "Aha!" moment! This grace makes us "right with God" when we believe that Jesus' work on the cross was on our behalf.

Sanctifying Grace (or Sanctification): This starts immediately after being justified by God's Grace (above) providing "salvation" that begins on a life-long journey to change us into the person God wants us to be. Having been "born again" we become a changed person thru God's Spirit living in us. The outcome is: being made perfect in love of God and neighbor.

EXAMPLES:

- ✓ Nicodemus' conversation with Jesus in the John 3 passage last week showed that even before he believed that Jesus was Lord, God's **Prevenient Grace** was working in his heart.
- ✓ **Prevenient Grace** is like God's willingness to carry us up a stairway that will eventually lead to Heaven. It's God's intention to not make us walk the stairs all by ourselves.
- ✓ **Justifying Grace** is accepting the fact that we WANT God to carry us up those stairs!
- ✓ **Sanctifying Grace** is the lifelong journey up those stairs, with Jesus; we may stumble or fall back a couple steps, but leaning on Jesus we can continue our journey up.
- ✓ **Prevenient Grace** is like the love of a parent (God) for a child (us) before the child is even born or before the child even knows who Mom or Dad is!
- ✓ **Sanctifying Grace** is like a continuous journey up and down hills, all the while re-affirming our stance on where we stand with Jesus. It's not a "one and done" kind of thing. It's constant growth.
- ✓ In God's House: **Prevenient Grace** is like being on the PORCH. **Justifying Grace** is like OPENING THE DOOR. **Sanctifying Grace** is like BEING INSIDE THE BUILDING.