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GOD'S RHYTHMS *of* GRACE

Relationship Over Rules

Mark 1:40

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. “If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,” he said.

Mark 1:41

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!”

Mark 1:42

**Instantly the leprosy
disappeared, and the man
was healed.**

Mark 1:43

**Then Jesus sent him on his way
with a stern warning:**

Mark 1:44

“Don’t tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.”

Mark 1:45

But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and he couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere.

Mark 1:45

**He had to stay out in the
secluded places, but people from
everywhere kept coming to him.**

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GOD'S RHYTHMS *of* GRACE

Relationship Over Rules

Rhythms of Grace

God's intentional and spiritual patterns for us that will provide the nourishment we need for redemption, rest, and renewal, as we seek to live faithfully in this fallen world.

Principle #1

**The story of humanity begins
and ends in an intimate,
loving relationship with
the LORD God, and with all
of His creation in paradise.**

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God *[Elohim]*
created the heavens and
the earth.

Genesis 2:4

These are the generations
of the heavens and the earth
when they were created,
in the day that the Lord God
[Yahweh Elohim] made the earth
and the heavens.

Genesis 2:5

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—
for the Lord God [*Yahweh Elohim*] had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,

Genesis 2:6

and a mist was going up from the
land and was watering the whole
face of the ground—

Genesis 2:7

Then the Lord God [*Yahweh Elohim*] formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 2:18

Then the Lord God [*Yahweh Elohim*] said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

Genesis 2:22

And the rib that the Lord God
[Yahweh Elohim] had taken from
the man he made into a woman
and brought her to the man.

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:25

And the man and his wife
were both naked and
were not ashamed.

Principle #1

**The story of humanity begins
and ends in an intimate,
loving relationship with
the LORD God, and with all
of His creation in paradise.**

Principle #2

The LORD's desire to have an intimate, loving relationship with each one of us is one of God's Rhythms of Grace, because it motivates God to make exceptions to His own rules in order to reveal His heart to us.

Mark 1:40

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. “If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,” he said.

Mark 1:41

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!”

Background of Leprosy

- Contagious skin disease
- A punishment for sin
- The leper was “unclean”
- Had to live in isolation
- Had to yell out “unclean, unclean” when coming near
- God said, do not touch them

Principle #2

The LORD's desire to have an intimate, loving relationship with each one of us is one of God's Rhythms of Grace, because it motivates God to make exceptions to His own rules in order to reveal His heart to us.

Principle #3

The LORD desires to have an intimate, loving relationship with you, instead of an obedience based relationship with you, because there is a difference between the Spirit of the Law and the Letter of the Law.

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Matthew 5:18

**For truly, I say to you, until
heaven and earth pass away, not
an iota, not a dot, will pass from
the Law until all is accomplished.**

Matthew 5:19a

**Therefore whoever relaxes
one of the least of these
commandments and teaches
others to do the same
will be called least in
the kingdom of heaven,**

Matthew 5:19b

**but whoever does them and
teaches them will be called great
in the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:20

**For I tell you, unless your
righteousness exceeds that
of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will never enter
the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:21

You have heard that it was said
to those of old, 'You shall not
murder; and whoever murders
will be liable to judgment.'

Matthew 5:22

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 5:27

You have heard that it was said,
'You shall not commit adultery.'

Matthew 5:28

**But I say to you that everyone
who looks at a woman
with lustful intent has already
committed adultery with her
in his heart.**

Principle #3

The LORD desires to have an intimate, loving relationship with you, instead of an obedience based relationship with you, because there is a difference between the Spirit of the Law and the Letter of the Law.

Principle #4

When the LORD makes an exception to His rule it is not so that someone can live however they want (free from God's laws), but so that they can be free to intimately know, love, and be in relationship with the LORD God.

Exceptions to the Rules

- Abraham sacrificing Isaac
- Aaron serving as High Priest
- Ruth the Moabite
- Hosea marrying Gomer
- David remained king after the Bathsheeba and Uriah incident
- God puts on flesh

Principle #5

Christ's desire to be in an intimate, loving relationship with you is infinitely and demonstrably greater than the power of sin, evil, and wickedness to contaminate, destroy, and kill.

Principle #6

Christianity is not a religion where individuals can work their way to God through “good works” or through obedience to a pattern of laws or religious rituals. It is an intimate, loving relationship with the LORD God.

Isaiah 29:13

And so the Lord says, “These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote.

Isaiah 29:14

Because of this, I will once again astound these hypocrites with amazing wonders. The wisdom of the wise will pass away, and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear.”

Isaiah 29:15

What sorrow awaits those who try to hide their plans from the Lord, who do their evil deeds in the dark! “The Lord can’t see us,” they say. “He doesn’t know what’s going on!”

Isaiah 29:16

How foolish can you be? He is the Potter, and he is certainly greater than you, the clay! Should the created thing say of the one who made it, “He didn’t make me”? Does a jar ever say, “The potter who made me is stupid”?

Principle #6

Christianity is not a religion where individuals can work their way to God through “good works” or through obedience to a pattern of laws or religious rituals. It is an intimate, loving relationship with the LORD God.

Principle #7

The LORD's desire to have an intimate, loving relationship with each one of us is one of God's Rhythms of Grace, because it motivates God to make exceptions to His own rules in order to redeem us and save us.

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