SERMON NOTES

November 22, 2026

Can I Say No to God's Grace

1 Corinthians 15:8-10

"Last of all, as one untimely born, He appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God within me."

Today's Curious Conversation has to do with this question: **Is it okay to say no to serving at church when asked to? When should you say yes and when should you say no? What does God's grace have to do with it?**

Grace: **G**_____ **R**_____ **A**___ **C**_____ **E**_____.

Grace: **God's** _____ **favor**.

Two kinds of grace:

_____ **grace** is bestowed on both good and bad people as a blessing on all.

Matthew 5:44-45 says *"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."*

_____ **grace**. Specific favor given to those who are called to bring about the salvation of people.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For by grace are you saved through faith and not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast."*

Luke 7:13-15 *"Don't cry. I can bring him back to life…*"Young man, Arise!" … t*he young man sat up and began to speak*.

Jesus brought a man who was truly _____ back to _____.

Romans 6:26 *"The wages of sin is _____, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus."*

Ephesians 2:1-4 *"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you once walked, following the course of this world… But God being rich in mercy , because of the great love with which He loved us, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved."*

Vs. 8 – *"For by _____ you have been saved through faith. And this not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works so that no one may boast."*

God's unmerited favor has brought you from spiritual death to spiritual eternal life.

Every day offers new opportunities to experience grace as you _____ spiritually.

1 Corinthians 15:8-10 *"Last of all, as one _____ born, He appeared to me."*

I was no better than a _____.

"For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I _____ the church of God."

"But by the _____ of God, I am what I am, and His _____ toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the _____ of God within me."

God's grace enabled him to _____ _____, go to new places, even suffer through hard times.

Is it okay to be asked to serve the Lord here at church, and say no? _____ if you sense that the grace of God is not _____ you for that task.

But, if God has gifted you, and there is a need here, say _____ to the opportunity.