

GRACE

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

The **GRACE** rollo is the second rollo of the first day. It follows the **IDEALS** rollo, which brings the candidates out of the everyday world into Christian community. It is followed by **THE CHURCH** rollo, which reveals the dynamics of mission and ministry of that community under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Its purpose is to reveal Grace as the experience of God's divine love for the world and the human family. It is also designed to elicit a faith response in the candidates, an awakening to the Grace that God so freely and unconditionally offers. The rollo expresses basic Biblical theology. It may be presented as evangelical witness or testimony.

The rollista is encouraged to abstain from a doctrinal approach in developing this rollo.

Time objective: Should not exceed **40** minutes

GRACE

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION**
 - A. Define Grace (include examples)**
 - B. Grace is a gift (salvation)**
 - C. Our response (faith)**

- II. THE NATURE OF GRACE**
 - A. Flows from the nature of God**
 - B. Grace is free**
 - C. Grace is unmerited**

- III. GOD'S ACTION OF GRACE**
 - A. The Father acts**
 - B. The Son acts**
 - C. The Holy Spirit acts**

- IV. CONCLUSION**
 - **God's grace invites a response**

GRACE

COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE

(This material is intended as a study aid for the Rollista. It is not intended to be the rollo.)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Definition. GRACE** is the eternally active, unlimited, unconditional, unmerited holy love that God has for all of creation and for each individual person, revealed and made effective in Jesus Christ (John 1:14). Grace is not something that can be easily defined or adequately described. It can only be experienced. We then struggle to find words to describe what we have experienced. A classical definition may be helpful to the candidates, such as “Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it, and in spite of what the person deserves” or, more simply, “God’s love in action”. A useful acrostic is “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense” (Include a brief personal example).
- B. Grace is a gift (salvation).** God offers this active holy love to each of us as a free gift, with no strings attached. God reaches out to us, seeking to share abundant life with us (John 10:10), offering us salvation in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5). John 3:16 (NIV), “*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,-that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life,*” reminds us that this is the greatest gift of grace God could give us.
- C. Our response (faith).** As with any gift, we can choose to accept, reject, or ignore God’s continuing offer of grace. It can be fruitful in us only if it is accepted in faith (Ephesians 2:8). Through faith imparted by the Holy Spirit, we are led to gratefully receive God’s saving grace, and in turn, give evidence of a life in grace in our daily walk in faith.

II. THE NATURE OF GRACE

- A. Flows from the nature of God.** Grace is not only an activity of God; it is a part of the way God is. God is love, and it is God’s nature to pour out grace upon us, who are made in the image of God. This grace is to restore fellowship with God. Forever and always God looks upon us with favor, ready to bestow kindness.
- B. Grace is free.** God continually and freely offers us favor, kindness, and love. It is not without cost; Jesus already paid the price for us (Romans 5:6-8).
- C. Grace is unmerited.** It is boundless, over-flowing, and available to all without any merit or worthiness on our part. Grace cannot be bought, earned, or won by us; if it could, it would cease to be grace. Consider using the **four U’s**:
Grace is **Undeserved** - there is nothing we can or must do to earn or deserve God’s grace;
Grace is **Unusual** - like the prodigal’s father, God forgives and loves us in spite of ourselves;

Grace is **Unstoppable** - even from the cross the Son looked down upon us and prayed: "*Father, forgive them...*" (Luke 23:34, NIV), reminding us that nothing can ever stop God's grace toward us in Jesus Christ;

Grace is **Unending** – like God, grace is eternal, having neither beginning nor ending, continuing faithfully beyond the grave – Christ's and our own.

GOD'S ACTIONS OF GRACE

- A. The Father acts.** God created the universe as the object of love. The signs of His grace are manifest in the world around us, and in the caring relationships we share with others. God created us, the highest of creation, for eternal fellowship with Himself in a state of grace. However, pride and disobedience always lead to the estrangement of humankind from our Creator. Despite our waywardness, God does not despair. God offers a clear invitation to a saving relationship through Christ. God is reaching out to us in love, seeking to share life with us that can fulfill every need we have. God bids the candidates to respond to that invitation, awakening a response in faith leading to a commitment of the whole person.
- B. The Son acts.** In Jesus Christ, God took upon Himself our humanity and nature in order to rescue us from death and evil, and to restore our broken relationship. By Jesus' life of perfect obedience to the Father's will, by His death for the atonement of our sins, by His resurrection and ascension, He releases us from the claim of death, and the broken relationship is re-established. Jesus Christ has redeemed us by death on the cross in order that we might be saved. He calls us into a new relationship with God in a *faith-response* to be His witness through the Church and in the community. Christ, the Word made flesh, is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6), through whom we receive access to the Father, forgiveness of sins, grace sufficient for all our needs (2 Corinthians 12:9), and our promise of salvation.
- C. The Holy Spirit acts.** Although we cannot by our own reasoning or power believe in and accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit awakens a *faith-response* in us by which we can accept God's free grace, and be brought into a saving faith (1 Cor. 12:3b; Eph.2:8-9). The Holy Spirit communicates in varied ways: through the preaching, hearing, and study of God's Word; through the persuasion of Christian friends; through crises or other Spirit-chosen instruments or circumstances (Rom. 10:17). It is **GRACE** that enables us to discover that God loves us and accepts us just the way we are; but God loves us too much to leave us there. We are moved to become Christ-like, empowered by His love within us.

(The rollista's personal witness is appropriate here; avoid anything too lengthy or "heavy" at this early point in the Weekend.)

IV. CONCLUSION

GRACE conveys two essential realities of the Christian faith:

- the fullness, breadth, and depth of God's unmerited love especially as it is revealed in Jesus Christ; and

- the transformation of our lives, restoring us to complete wholeness and enabling us to grow in grace.

GRACE is the basic ingredient in God's "Plan of Salvation" for us, revealing to us that:

- we are all sinners separated from God;
- we cannot by our own reason or strength gain our own salvation;
- God sent His One and only Son to take away our sins so that we might have eternal life with Him, and,
- **our response is to receive God's gift of grace by having faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and following Him (Rom. 5:1-2).**

Note to the rollista: *There is far more subject matter in this "Commentary . . ." than is required to meet the time objective of the rollo. While it is necessary to speak very briefly on each item listed in the outline, be careful to select for expansion, only those items for which you have something significant to contribute - - usually through personal experience. Remember, the more important part of the Weekend will occur during table discussions than what participants will learn or remember from hearing the rollo. The rollo is meant more to spark ideas for the table discussions than it is meant to be instructive.*

Time objective: Should not exceed **40** minutes.

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BIBLE REFERENCES

(These Bible references are included here to help the rollista understand some of the biblical background of the rollo. The list is neither complete nor is it intended to become part of the rollo. Read the references and listen for the Word of God.)

Gen.	1:2	The Spirit of God moving over the face of the waters
Isaiah	61:1	The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
Mark	1:10-12	Jesus' baptism
Luke	4:18	The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
John	1:14	He dwelt among us full of grace and truth
Romans	1:7	Grace and peace to you
Romans	3:24	Being justified freely by grace, we have peace with God
Romans	16:20	The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
2 Cor.	12:9	My grace is sufficient for you
Eph.	2:1-10	God's gift: you are saved by grace through faith
1 Peter	4:10	We are stewards of grace
2 Peter	3:18	Grow in grace