

If God's Grace is free, why should it cost me anything? (Based on Chapter 1 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Grace is a gift from God, but it will cost you everything.

Biblical Foundation

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. Ephesians 2:8-9 (TEV)

What shall we say, then? Should we continue to live in sin so that God's grace will increase? Certainly not! We have died to sin—how then can we go on living in it? Romans 6:1-2 (TEV)

Cheap grace justifies my sin

Bonhoeffer says cheap grace is the presumption we can receive forgiveness for our sins, but not take responsibility for following the commands of Jesus that lead to a transformed life.

Everything is forgiven, so I can live according to my own desires. Cheap grace says, "I can sin without any concern of consequences."

Costly grace justifies the sinner

Bonhoeffer says we must understand that although grace is free this doesn't mean it won't cost anything. In order to follow the commands of Jesus, we must begin to let go of the things that keep Jesus from being the #1 priority in our lives. We can look at it this way: there is no entry fee to the kingdom of heaven, but when we enter the kingdom we will give up everything as we become more like Jesus.

Everything is forgiven, so I can live according to Jesus' desires. I am freed from my sin so I can enter the kingdom of heaven where my life will be transformed into the image of Jesus. (See John 8, where Jesus, in essence, says you are forgiven, now go and change the way you live.)

How is costly grace like a treasure hidden in the field?

What keeps us from accepting the cost of grace?

How would your life change if you accepted the cost of grace?