

# Howards Corner

## *Cheap Grace*

If you have listened to much of the words of analysis about the Christian faith, then you probably heard the term “cheap grace”. So today, so many have just assumed things about what it means to be a Christian. Some are thinking that to join a church is all that is required or to believe that Jesus came to the world to save all, or I have said a few words of confession and that does it or maybe believe that Jesus died for our salvation. Well, **“not so fast”**.

While these things have some elements of truth if you read all the scriptures, you will find we are required to obey Jesus’ commands. At one point Jesus was confronted by the pharisees about a woman caught in the sin of adultery and there was no argument from Jesus that it was not a sin but there must be mercy applied and not a hard heart of no compassion and *“Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”* Why we must not have a hard heart and not forgive is that we are all guilty in some manner and probably in many manners. He did not say, however, that all is forgiven and there is no responsibility from you but said go and sin no more.

So, there is a requirement for us to no longer continue in our sins. At some point we must make changes in our lives and stop our sins. This changing of our lives needs power greater than ours for we are operating in our sin nature but if you have become a follower of Jesus, you will find you are no longer comfortable in those habitual sins. Righteous actions will emerge from our weakness but only with the power of the Holy Spirit for we are called to be righteous. Sometimes He allows us to continue for a long time before we are called into account.

If we are true believers, then we will be troubled in our hearts about our sins but if we are counterfeit believers then we will have a hardening of our spirit and are no longer convicted of our sins and the need to change our ways.

So, then we are faced with the question of “cheap grace”. Do we have a surface belief that we are saved from everything but do not change our behavior? So, this woman in the story was forgiven by Jesus and was told to go and sin no more. If



So, it appears we are on a journey that we cannot achieve on our own but through the power of the Holy Spirit abiding in us and by the shed blood of Jesus there is a way provided for us to live with righteousness if coupled with faith in the work Jesus performed for us. So, it is obvious we cannot achieve this on our own, but it is Grace by faith we will reach our destination, but it is not **Cheap Grace** for it will cost us something. It cost Jesus His life and rejection by the people He came to save.

*So, I remind you the objective is to be righteous although we are not perfect and cannot achieve that on our own but is a gift from God so that we cannot boast for the Lord hates arrogance, but you are on a journey, and I pray that this journey will lead you to the righteousness of God. Submit to His discipline.*

**Howard**