

The Hyper-Grace Movement (HGM)

(Appendix C from [Galatians: Bewitched or Be Free](#))

What do you know of hyper-grace? What do you think about it? Hyper-grace sounds like something good. Hyper meaning high, beyond, excessive, above normal, or excitable. Grace is giving something generous, free, undeserved, courteous goodwill, refinement of movement, or honoring by your presence. So, the term hyper-grace itself sounds great. Upon first hearing the term, it sounds like God's grace. Most would want more grace like that from God, and others. But why is it so controversial? Why are so many popular preachers and big churches joining this movement? What is the truth, and what should be a Biblical position on hyper-grace?

The Hyper-Grace Movement (HGM) does not have a single definition, and many identify with parts of it, without giving mental assent to all of it. This is very seductive, deceptive, destructive, and has many followers along its continuum. At its heart, the HGM holds that because God has given grace that forgives all sins (past, present, and future), and since God loves sinners (sinners saved by grace who will live eternally in heaven), there is no need for personal responsibility, repentance, confession, or a holy lifestyle. Clearly that last assertion is not Biblical. HGM accepts anyone and everyone, because God does. HGM justifies and rationalizes anything the unsaved world does, no matter how salacious, evil, or egregious. That “*doctrine*” attracts many followers. It values unconditional love and acceptance over holy separate living. There is only one thing wrong with it—the whole of Scripture!

God commands love and holiness. HGM thinking is often a reactionary response by those rebelling against the other extreme, have escaped a legalistic background with an emphasis on rules, or serving the law. **Rules-based relationships almost always lead to rebellion, frustration, failure, and frailties.** The Garden of Eden proved no one, but God was able to keep even one-law (cf. [Gen. 3:1-6](#)), all sin (cf. [Rom. 3:23](#)). Some pridefully point to laws they do keep, which others do not. The early church was plagued by these Pharisaical legalistic Judaizers (see [Galatians](#)). These legalists took it to such an extreme they added works or laws required to be eternally saved, and also so much extra minutiae that frustrated early Christians. This insecurity and confusion led to the opposite extreme and left-wing licentiousness. Licentiousness disregards all rules or standards, outright tolerates and serves sin. HGM and licentiousness, really repackage an old heresy called antinomianism (against the Law). Those that are attracted and pulled towards licentiousness (or lawlessness), but still want to embrace Christianity, must, of necessity justify, or rationalize their sin. Both legalism and licentiousness are selfish, sinful, and of the flesh, not of faith or of the Spirit; both focus on man's works, and not on God's unmerited grace received by faith.

God's grace is super abounding. It is more grace than anyone else is able to give or provide. It abounds more than our need. **God's grace is greater than we can imagine and**

hyper-grace is even a gross understatement of what God gives. The hyper-grace movement is false, but the concept of God’s hyper-grace is true. Since the hyper-grace movement has hijacked true words to mean something false, different words need to be utilized to describe God’s great grace. God’s truly extravagant grace comes from His **“hesed”** (Hebrew) loyal covenant-keeping faithful love, grace, favor, kindness, and mercy. God’s loving grace does forgive all sins of those who respond to His Holy Spirit’s drawing, receive His Son Jesus Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection as their Substitute. Not only does God give them eternal life, which lasts forever, but He gives them the righteousness of Christ. This is positional righteousness, forgiveness of all sin—eternally saved. God’s loving grace and mercy are not His only attributes. God is also perfectly holy, just, and wise.

All of His attributes work in perfect harmony. All of His attributes are involved in all of His actions, His Word, and His will. **God does not only want to graciously give us eternal heavenly life, but also daily earthly life, which is abundant** (cf. [John 10:10](#)). **Christianity is more than just a fire-escape religion, it is a fiery-spiritual relationship, that begins at salvation, and never ends** (cf. [Luke 3:16](#)). It is a moment-by-moment daily walk with the One you love. Below are 10 reasons the hyper-grace movement *“misses the mark”* of the whole teaching of Scripture.

1. God saved us from sin, not to sin ([Rom. 6:7; 18, 22](#)).
2. Sin destroys us and leads to death, so God’s great grace works to eternally and daily deliver us from sin and its consequences ([Rom. 6:23; Gal. 1:4; 2Ti. 4:18](#)).
3. God commands us to **“be holy, for I am holy”** ([Lev. 11:45; 19:2...](#)).
4. God commands us to **“confess”** our sin, so we can be forgiven and healed ([James 5:16](#); cf. [1 John 1:9](#)). This restores our fellowship, when separated by sin.
5. God lovingly and gracefully disciplines every believer, to set us free from sin ([Deu. 8:5; Heb. 12:6-7](#)). Eternal salvation is only the beginning.
6. God **“commands all men everywhere to repent”** ([Acts 17:30](#)) **“and do works meet”** [fitting] **“for repentance”** ([Acts 26:20](#)). That is universal in its appeal and is for everyone, everywhere, to **“change their mind”** and **“be sorry for”** their sin, and **“turn back to God;”** first, to be eternally saved, and then each subsequent time they sin after they were saved. God specifically commands the church believers to repent ([Rev. 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19](#)).
7. God commands us not to **“walk after the flesh”** in sin ([Rom. 8:1, 4](#)) in order that we do not produce and receive rotten fruit, or **“the works of the flesh”** ([Gal. 5:19-21](#)), which leads to destruction. He instead, commands us to continually **“be filled with the Holy Spirit”** ([Eph. 5:18](#)) and **“walk in the Spirit”** in righteousness ([Gal. 5:16, 25](#)), to receive the living spiritual **“fruit of the Spirit”** ([Gal. 5:22-23](#)). God’s great grace and will for us is: not to be slaves to hatred, but free in love; not slaves to strife, but free in peace; not enslaved to bitterness, anger, wrath, and murder, but free in patience, kindness, and life, etc.

8. God says the two highest commands are to love Him first, and others next (*Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27*). A life of sin and selfishness hurts God, others, and especially ourselves. **A sin-filled life is not a recipient, nor a giver of good grace.**
9. God says that a true Christian cannot continuously practice sin (*1 John 3:9*), because they have been born again spiritually, "*born of God*." If a person regularly and unrepentantly practices sin, they have not been eternally saved. God says we once practiced sin, but those who continue to practice sin or "*unrighteousness*," will not "*inherit the kingdom of God*" (*1Co. 6:9-11*). That is why God says, "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove you own selves...*" (*2Co. 13:5*). James would tell us that there is no profit, it is vain, it is meaningless for a person to "*say*" he has faith in God, but does not, and never lives a life of faith (cf. *James 2*); as "*the just shall live by faith*" (*Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38*). We deceive ourselves if we say we trust God, but do not consistently live like we do. We work the works of the world, the flesh, or the devil, and not of our Father God. If we believe our God has delivered us from Satan, our fleshly desires apart from God, the worldly system that hates God, we need to live like we believe because of all that God has permanently accomplished in us at our salvation (e.g., redemption, adoption, indwelling of the Spirit, remission of sins, a new creation, etc.).
10. A fitting conclusion is found in what God says in *Rom. 6:1-2*: "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that dead to sin, live any longer therein?*" Shall we continue in sin (after sin has been paid for), so that super-grace can be demonstrated by God's love? The strongest Greek emphatic negative response is given. KJV: "*God forbid*." NASV: "*May it never be*." We are now positionally "*dead to sin*." How can we spit on our relationship with our gracious God by living in sin, acting like we are not "*dead to sin*," but living to sin? We were "*crucified with Christ*," and now "*Christ lives in me*" (*Gal. 2:20*). We were "*baptized into His death...so we also should walk in newness of life*" (*Rom. 6:3-4*). *Rom. 6:6* tells us that we experientially know that "*our old man*" [our old fleshly nature before faith in Christ] "*is*" [has been] "*crucified with Him*" [Christ], "*that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin*." It is exciting that because of the completed work of Christ, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, "*sin shall not have dominion over you*" (*Rom. 6:14*). We do NOT serve sin any more.

Though hyper-grace is true, the hyper-grace movement is NOT. It does not align with Scripture. It is tempting to buy into the HGM thinking in our "*anything goes*" culture and lack-of-respect to authority, our promiscuous culture, our sinful culture, our confused cancel culture, and sometimes the other end of the spectrum (a false man-centric, works-centric, legalistic, religious cults, false religions, or even false works-based sanctification). However, HGM is not true. **God's grace is so much more, it is super abundant.**

God's grace will not allow us to destroy ourselves in the deceptive acceptance of sin, and God gives grace so that "*we are more than conquerors through Him*" Who loves us (*Rom.*

8:37). We can “*be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might,*” to “*put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand,*” and fight, and win the spiritual battles (*Eph. 6:10-20*) against sin, Satan, our flesh, and “*spiritual wickedness in high places*” (*Eph. 6:12*). We trust and depend on God, His faithfulness, His grace, and His Spirit to provide the “*way to escape*” from any and all sinful temptations (*1Co. 10:13*).

Ponder an analogy of a HGM marriage versus a Christ-like marriage. One spouse promises the other spouse that they will never divorce for any reason, that they will faithfully love “*till death do they part.*” That is great grace, based on a spouse’s unconditional love, a picture of Christ and His one true Church. In a HGM marriage, the marriage partner receives such a promise, such love, and then goes on and has multiple affairs, is mean to their spouse, and does everything contrary to marriage’s intent and purpose, and the nature and will of their spouse. They treat their marriage like a legal contract, withholding all they can, according to the letter-of-the law in the wedding vows. This is the HGM version of hyper-grace. In stark contrast, the Christ-like marriage is where both spouses make the same commitment (sometimes making mistakes), even hurting their spouse, but apologizing, and living out of love and gratitude for such a gracious loving relationship. Which is the grace you choose with God?

God’s true and great grace is that He has provided the relationship with us. God never breaks His loving gracious promises. God is faithful. God is loving. God is gracious. God is merciful. God is forgiving. God knows everything. God has all-power. God is everywhere at once. God is holy and the righteous fair judge. God is truth. God is infinite. God is Spirit. God is the only person worthy of committing our lives. God is the only perfect person with Whom we share a day-by-day and eternal relationship, that will never fail. God gave up His own’s Son’s life to defeat sin’s hold. God gives His Spirit to work in every believer, in order to not be “*conformed to this world,*” but be “*transformed*” (*Rom. 12:2*), by being graciously “*conformed to the image of His Son*” (*Rom. 8:29*).

God’s grace has often been described with the acronym of **GRACE** (God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense). God’s greatest grace of all is His own dear Son, Jesus Christ (cf. *John 3:16*). God gave us Jesus, Who “*humbled Himself*” (*Php. 2:8*); “*made Himself of no reputation*” (*Php. 2:7*); “*took upon Him the form of a servant*” (*Php. 2:7*); took on human “*flesh and blood*” (*Heb. 2:14*); lived a sinless life (cf. *Heb. 2:14*); died in our place on an accursed cross, was our substitute, took our place (*1Pe. 2:24; 3:18*); became “*sin for us*” (*2Co. 5:21*); to pay the eternal price for sin (*Heb. 9:12*); to give us eternal life (*John 10:28*). “*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name*” (*John 1:12*). **God’s grace is unfathomable, unequalled, and super abounding to all.** God gives grace to both “*the evil and on the good...the just and unjust*” (*Mat. 5:45*), but is the most gracious to those who receive His greatest gift: “*eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (*Rom. 6:23b*). Although most do, but why would anyone reject such loving grace eternally? Then for those who know and have become God’s child, how could they want to knowingly reject His daily grace to live above sin and its deadly hold? **We have been saved from sin!** God’s grace, by Christ’s death,

received “*by grace*” “*through faith*” (*Eph. 2:8*) alone, pays for all sin; past, present, and future.

The hyper-grace movement misunderstands, misapplies, and actually limits the full grace of God (by a lack of understanding). The hyper-grace movement in essence says that because God has paid for all sin, a believer can submit to sin, live in sin, go back to the “*weak and beggarly*” (*Gal. 4:9*) ways they once lived before Christ.

The hyper-grace movement is not God’s grace. God’s grace delivers us from sin eternally, and also gives us earthly victory over sin. That is not just eternal grace, but daily grace. Each day as we yield to His Spirit’s grace and permit Christ to live in and through us, we experience the abundant life God’s graciously provides through Christ and His Spirit’s continuous work in all believers. **God’s grace does not enable sin; it enables saved sinners to live a life of grace free from sin.** This is not to say a Christian will never sin, but God’s grace delivers us when we do. Positionally, permanently, Christians are sinless (forgiven and given Christ’s righteousness) because of God’s grace. But “*we deceive ourselves,*” we lie to ourselves, and God’s “*Word is not in us,*” “*if we say that we have no sin*” (*1Jo. 1:8, 10*).

Every Christian knows that they still battle with sin and have spiritual warfare after they are eternally saved. We need continuous deliverance from sin by God’s grace. We do not battle or work to overcome sin in our flesh, but in God’s gracious Spirit. Jesus is our gracious advocate. When “*we confess our sins,*” God “*is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (*1Jo. 1:9*).

This helps my focus. **Remember, Rules = Rebellion; Relationship = Reward. Rules are about law or works; Grace is about trust or receiving the greatest loving relationship one can experience. God’s grace saved from sin, and does not leave bound by sin.** Rightly receiving His grace, does not give up or into sin. His grace, by His Spirit, graciously allows us to lovingly fight and win battles over sin. We trust God knows best. We trust His Word. We trust His Spirit. We lovingly live close to God, above sin. However, when we do sin, we repent, confess, and accept His unconditional grace.

No matter how well-intentioned, HGM limits the purpose of grace. HGM actually minimizes this greatest grace of all. **HGM hijacks God’s saving us from all sin, to only mean that He only saved us from the eternal consequences of sin.** God’s grace gives us victory over the daily battles with Satan, sin, our flesh, and the world. God’s grace, Christ’s death, and His resurrection life is what gives victory over sin now. **It is not spitting in the face of grace; it is living in His loving embrace. We need His holy hugs. Please do not miss them.**