

SHAMELESS GRACE # 5
 LIVING IN THE FREEDOM OF GOD'S LOVE
 DR. LARRY LAMB - OCTOBER 2, 2022

GALATIANS 5.13 *“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.”*

LUKE 15.1,2 *Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. 2 This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that He was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!*

A prodigal son / daughter abandons their faith when they become enamored by someone, a lifestyle, or a fantasy that promises fulfillment. They left:

- > TRUTH... to chase a lie.
- > SECURITY... to embrace a fallacy.
- > WISE COUNSEL... to the addiction of their way.

LUKE 15.11-13 *To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.*

TOO MUCH OF ANYTHING IN THE HANDS OF THE IMMATURE IS USUALLY CATASTROPHIC.

LUKE 15.14-16 *About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.*

REF Luke 15.20,21

EPHESIANS 2.8,9 *God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

When Jesus told stories it was important for people to locate themselves within the story.

- 1) For those who relate to attitude and action of the prodigal son. Stop where you are, come to your senses and go home. The word is REPENTANCE. Don't travel another day away from home. Come back.
- 2) For those who relate to the father. Don't stop PRAYING for a prodigal son or daughter. God is always at work and knows exactly how to bring them back to sanity.
- 3) For those who relate to the older son. Lose your resentment. Take a new look at the CROSS and see if your resentment matches the weight of the CROSS and the Love of Jesus.
- 4) God's viewpoint is love, grace, and forgiveness. But wait, there are consequences to their choices. That's true for them and for us. Before we get too steeped in our self-righteousness, let's go back and read:

LUKE 15.1,2 *Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that He was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!*

SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JOY CANNOT COEXIST. STOP ANALYZING EVERY MOTIVE FROM YOUR PERFECTED POINT OF VIEW.

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I know the penalty of my sin is physical, spiritual, and eternal death. I acknowledge that I can't do anything about my situation. But I know You came to pay the penalty for my sin. I trust in You alone as the One who died in my place. I repent of my sin and trust in You alone as the only One who can place me in an eternal relationship with the Living God. I desire to be Your child. I desire to live as Your child. I receive joyfully receive Your gift of GRACE. In Your Name. Amen.