

Grace – Is “being gracious” and “being nice” the same thing?
AM Service Hebrews 12:28-29 August 8, 2010

Introduction

“marsh mallow”

“marshmallow”

Definition

The marshmallow by the campfire

Is “being gracious” and “being nice” the same thing?

The Answer

Marshmallow Grace

1. Sees the world in soft, pastel colors
2. Finds it impossible to believe that God could ever act...

Reality

Fact

The character of God

Is the truth ever hard?

Is it inappropriate to use fear as a motivator?

You can't fully appreciate the wonders of eternal life unless
you understand the realities of eternal death.

God's grace is not mushy and soft!

It is heroic!

Three ways true grace differs from marshmallow grace -

1. Compassion instead of mistaken tenderness

- a. Mistaken Tenderness
- b. True Compassion
- c. Illustration

2. Discipline instead of absolute acceptance

I Corinthians 5

- a. We should mourn over sin.
- b. Sin needs to be dealt with.

II Corinthians 2:6-8

3. Fear of God instead of grandfatherly cuddliness

Hebrews 12:28-29

- a. The kingdom of Christ is permanent and unchanging.
- b. We are to hold fast to the grace we have received.
- c. We are to serve with dread and awe.
- d. Our God is a consuming fire.

Is "being gracious" and "being nice" the same thing?

The Answer

Grace and niceness are not the same thing.

- * True grace will be meaty.
- * Marshmallow Grace says -
- * True Grace says -

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery