

His Grace Is Sufficient - Part 3

Dividing His Grace

Intro: Have you ever seen products that had a label on them that said “one-size-fits-all”

How many of you have discovered that for the most part, that is not true?

People who make such products are either lazy or impatient.

There are a lot of Christians who want to take a one-size-fits-all approach to evangelism.

The Gospel does fit all people but there is no one-size-fits-all method of sharing it.

I. Jesus is the Savior that meets people right where they are.

A. Because of this, there should be a Holy flexibility to the ministry of the Word.

1. Jesus is not one-size-fits-all or someone who fits us all in the same package.

a. Jesus does not makes us wear the same suit and He is not someone who causes us to become clones of a particular ministry or person.

b. Jesus works in us with an individuality that befits the creator of such a spectacular and diverse universe.

2. The Father created billions of people, and though we have similarities, we are all different.

a. All of our life experiences are different, and yet there is only one Word of God.

b. There is only one Savior of our soul who manages to touch each of our lives in a different way and in exactly the right way.

3. It is to our own shame that we often fall into habits and ruts.

a. We are so prone to take one particular truth that ministered to us, or one particular way of being treated, and then we try to make it apply to everyone.

b. We can see this tendency in the way we pray.

1) Larry Lea - Something miraculous happens when you pray one hour

2) Dr. Bill Hybels - Write out your prayers everyday using ACTS

3) That didn't worked so I used my own formula

a) God doesn't want me to reduce my conversation with Him to a formula

b) I wouldn't want that with my own children - their each different.

c) We need to pray as we can, not as we can't

d) Besides, the power of prayer is not in the one who says it but in the One who hears it.

c. We need to become men and women who are flexible and adaptable to the various conditions and situations of the people who God has called us to.

d. We can't afford to take a "One-Size-Fits-All" approach to sharing the Gospel with others.

B. In John 14: 15-16, Jesus says *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments and I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever."*

1. It says that Jesus is going to give you "another helper," the implication is that He just gave you some help.

a. The initial help that He gave is seen in His admonishment to His disciples to keep *"His commandments"* which is the Word of God.

b. I have found the Word of God to be a tremendous help for my life.

1) When I have been lonely, I turned to the Word of God and it comforted me.

2) When I have been depressed, I have turned to the Word of God and it has encouraged me.

3.) When I have been weak, I turned to the Word of God and it has strengthened me.

c. The Word of God, the commandments can help you as well.

d. But, the Word in and of itself is insufficient to help you, you also need the Spirit that inspired the Word.

e. A map can help, and a guide can help, but if the maker of the map is our guide, then that can really and specifically help.

2. Let me give you an example from my own life to help you understand that words alone are insufficient, in and of themselves.

a. As a parent, I can't tell you how many times my children have used my words to them, on one another, for purposes that I never meant for them to use.

b. They were good words that were suited to a certain situation, but they would take my words out of the initial situation and would use them in situations that my words were never meant to be used.

- c. **They quoted me correctly, they didn't add to my words, nor did they subtract from them, but they didn't have my heart behind them.**
- d. Because they didn't have my heart, they didn't know what my words were suppose to accomplish.
- e. **They saw my words primarily as corrective in nature, which would then cause them to only use my words when they wanted to correct something in each other.**
- f. What they failed to realize is that the words of correction that came from my mouth proceeded out of a heart that loved them and only wanted good for them.
- g. **Therefore, my heart would modify or adapt my words in each situation, in order to accomplish that good.**
- h. Having only my words with out my heart caused them to try and fit my words to every occasion.
- i. **This one-size-fits-all approach caused my words that were initially given to help them, to be used ultimately as a means to hurt them.**

3. This is why Jesus told His disciples, *"He will give you another Helper,"* the Holy Spirit, who will help you with the help.

- a. **John 16:13 - We need someone to guide us in both knowing and applying the truth.**
- b. My first marital counseling experience.

4. **The Helper's primary purpose is to bring the heart of God to bear on the Word of God, so that each of us can get in on God's help.**

C. Let me give you another example from scripture that will clarify this even more.

1. **In 2 Samuel 18-5 is the story of how David's oldest son Absalom rebelled against his father and tried to take the kingdom from him.**
2. In the midst of David fleeing the city with those who were still loyal to him, he gathers the three commanders of his army and tells them in verse 5 to *"deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom."*
 - a. In one sense this seems to be an unusual request concerning a perpetrator of one of the worse crimes against a king.
 - b. **But in another sense it is not unusual at all, because the perpetrator in this situation is also a son.**
 - c. There were two things that were in conflict in this situation:

- 1) **There was an ordinance of a king which demanded punishment for a law broken.**
- 2) There was the love of a father which demanded pardon for a son lost.
3. **In verse 5 David is asking his men to not only feel anger for a law that was transgressed, but to feel his anguish for a son who was the transgressor.**
 - a. David was attempting through his words to bring the heart of a father to bear on the law of the king.
 - b. He did this in hopes that the insurrection would be spoiled, and a son would be spared.**
 - c. One of the commanders, Joab, disregarded the king's words and thinking he was doing the king's will, treated the king's law as a **one-size-fits-all**, and put the king's son to death.
3. **The Lord has given us two great gifts, the Word of God and the Spirit of God which inspired the word, which used together will help us.**
 - a. The Word contains the principles of God, but in the Holy Spirit they must be channeled through the passion of God, in order for them to be a specific help to us.
 - b. In dealing with others we must allow the law of God to be filter through the love of God.**
 - c. If we do, we will not only discover that **one-size-does-not-fit-all**, but we will discover that the help that we do give is both powerful and specific.
4. **Not all people are God's by redemption, but all people are God's by creation.**
 - a. If we had a heart that could hear, we would hear the Father say, "*deal gently with others for My sake.*"
 - b. It's not enough to simply obey God's law, He wants us to be guided by His love.**
 - c. He not only wants us to be disturbed by sin, He wants us to be devoted toward sinners.
 - d. In this world there are many people we may not like, but the Lord is saying to us, "for My sake be gentle with them, don't take My law that was designed to help them and use it to hurt them."**
 - e. Let's not ever cause God to weep over some Absalom that we hurt, because we used the law of God as a one-size-fits-all.

D. 2 Corinthians 3:6 - applying the letter of the law kills, applying the Spirit gives life.

Applying the law without the Spirit is to take a one-size-fits-all approach to the Gospel.

1. Examples, 55 miles per hour - privacy.
2. **Principles are the rudder that guides the ship, but the Spirit is the wind that blows you in the right direction.**
 - a. I can't tell you how many times I have seen people use the rudder to get the boat to go in a direction that the Spirit never wanted it to go.
 - b. The principles are what sets the standard. But sometimes you can use the standard to hurt, to disqualify, or to keep people from the Kingdom because they didn't fit the standard.**
 - c. I believe in the standard, but I also believe that the Holy Spirit adjusts the standard according to the individual needs of a person.
 - d. He wants to use the standard to maintain the person instead of trying to make the person maintain the standard.**
3. Principles will allow you place all your ducks in a row, but the Spirit is what makes those ducks effective.
 - a. If you have an ear to hear, you will find in some situations God will kick one of your ducks out if its row.**
 - b. Because keeping it in a row in this situation will hurt more than help
 - 1) **My Brother Buckie** 2) Jerry Furlow 3) **Brother Rob**
4. Principles will cause you to go the first mile, the Spirit, the second mile.

Principles will cause you to do just enough, the Spirit, more than enough.

Principles will cause you to do what is required, the Spirit, what is needed.

5. **John 4:24 - "Spirit and Truth." Dry up - Blow up - Grow**

- a. If you have all truth you become religious.
Apply the Law without being guided by the Spirit.
- b. If you have all Spirit you become radical.**
Being moved by the Spirit without due consideration to the law.
- c. If you have both Spirit and Truth you become relevant.
Applying the law while being guided by the Spirit.

Religious and legalistic people are one-size-fits-all people

Relevant and Caring people realize that they are not only speaking for the Creator but they are also speaking to His creation