

Systematic Theology Chapter 12

Mercy, Grace, Patience

Pages 239-240

Mercy

1. What do we mean when we say that someone is merciful?
2. What is divine mercy? Distinguish it from grace or other divine attributes?
3. Is God under obligation to be merciful, gracious, and patient with any sinful creature? Explain.
4. How is Matthew 5:7 an encouragement to be merciful to others?
5. Has someone demonstrated mercy to you? How?
6. Describe a merciful act you have shown to someone else.

Grace

7. What is divine grace?

8. Who will be the recipients of God's grace in **Exodus 33:19**. Why will certain people be the recipients of His grace and not others?

9. **Hebrews 4:16** says, "draw near to the throne of grace". What does it mean that God's throne is a "throne of grace"? How does this encourage you to approach God for forgiveness?

10. How has God demonstrated His grace to you?

11. What is your response to God's grace?

12. How does God's grace towards you inspire you to be gracious towards others? Give an example.

Patience

13. What is patience?

14. God shows forbearance towards the wicked reprobate. He puts up with them until the time when He is ready to judge them. On the other hand, God is longsuffering towards His elect children. **2 Peter 3:9** teaches that God is "longsuffering to us-ward" (other translations say "longsuffering to you"). What does it mean that God is longsuffering towards His elect people? How?

15. What Bible story clearly portrays God's patience? Record the details and how God showed patience.
16. How did God show great patience towards His covenant people during the wilderness wanderings?
17. How did God show great patience towards His covenant people during the time of the judges?
18. Are patience and being slow to anger, synonyms? Explain.
19. With whom do you need to be patient? Why do you struggle with being patient towards that person?
20. In **1 Timothy 1:15-16** it says, "The saying is trustworthy and deserving a full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life." How was Christ patient with Saul of Tarsus? How has He been patient with you?