

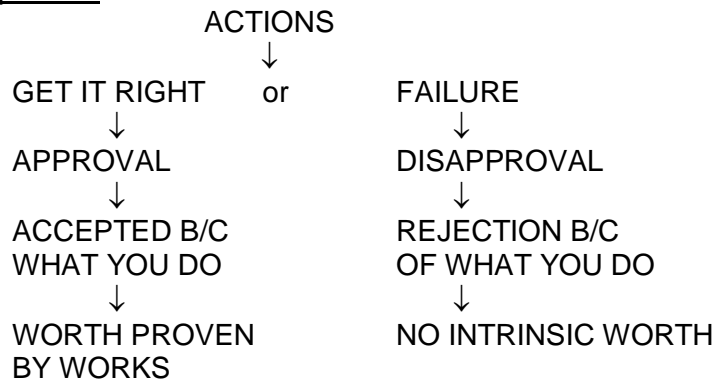
Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are His child, everything He has belongs to you.

Galatians 4:7 NLT

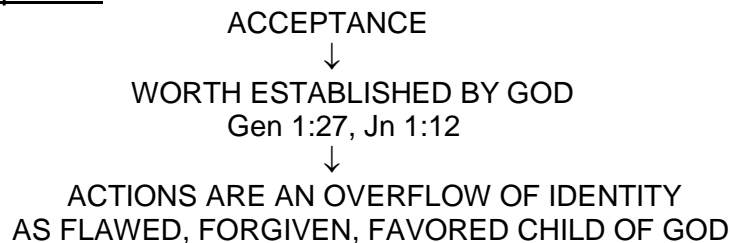
I. Covenant of Grace: ACTIONS ≠ ACCEPTANCE

WORK ≠ WORTH

• Human Perspective:



• God's Perspective:



II. Covenant of Grace Terms—Study the terms of your acceptance in Christ:

- Grace—favor, kindness, forgiving mercy, gifts freely bestowed by God (Easton's)
- Worth--To matter or be of importance (Strong's): Mt 6:26 NAS— Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?
 - My worth and works are not related -- Jesus labored on my behalf so I don't have to work to prove my worth:
 - Rom 4:4--To him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.
 - Is 53:11— He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.
- Value--precious, prized, dear, honored, rare, highly esteemed (Strong's): Is 43:4 NLT--Others died that you might live. I traded their lives for yours because you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you.
- Accepted—To be delighted in; to be received graciously: Ezek 20:41-- I will accept you as a sweet aroma
- Shame--A painful emotion caused by a strong sense of guilt, embarrassment, unworthiness, or disgrace (American Heritage Dictionary): Ps 40:12--My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of my head; therefore my heart fails me.

III. Free Flowing Forgiveness (FFF)—Believe and receive God’s forgiveness of you:

- Lack of Free Flowing Forgiveness (FFF) → sense of shame → distance, avoidance, hiding, and difficulty making eye contact → unstable relationship
- Biblical Example of Shame: Adam and Eve in Gen 3:7 NLT--At that moment, their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they strung fig leaves together around their hips to cover themselves
- Because shame keeps us from enjoying God’s presence and from experiencing unhindered intimacy with Him, God chooses to cover our shame:
 - Gen 3:21-- For Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.
 - Is 61:7 NIV-- Instead of their shame my people will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs
- Forgiveness removes our shame and helps us to see God’s heart of grace: Mt 5:8 NLT--God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.
- Shame from Failure—Those who have Christ have FFF and have no need to fear shame from failure: 1 Cor 1:30 NLT--God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus...He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and He gave himself to purchase our freedom.
- Renounce any lies that lead to shame and announce your acceptance in Christ:
 - Lie: I won’t fail if Jesus saves me from my sin.
 - Truth: Micah 7:8--Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the LORD himself will be my light.
 - Lie: Eventually I will grow to a place where I will no longer fail.
 - Truth: 2 Tim 4:8 NLT--The prize awaits me – the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return.

IV. God Is the One Who Fulfills the Covenant of Grace—Meditate on both aspects of the Covenant of Grace, asking God to lead you into a deeper experience of it.

A. Christ’s redeeming work of salvation gives God possession of our hearts:

- Jer 24:7-- Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.
- Jer 31:33-34-- But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

B. Jesus works in us, by the power of His indwelling Spirit, all that He calls us to be:

- Heb 13:20-21 NLT-- May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing His will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to Him. Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep by an everlasting covenant, signed with His blood.
- 2 Cor 3:5-6 NLT--He is the one who has enabled us to represent his new covenant. This is a covenant, not of written laws, but of the Spirit.

