
COU 305 - 3 credits

Parenting by Grace

Course Description

The focus of this course is on releasing the grace of God into your home, making it a place of love, peace, honor and victorious Christian living where each member of the family is accepted as he is and strengthened to become all that he can be in Christ. You will examine your life in the Light of the revelation of the Holy Spirit, and possibly be called upon to make significant changes in yourself and your family as a result of what you learn.

Course Texts

Rivers of Grace textbook – Mark and Patti Virkler

Rivers of Grace CDs – Mark and Patti Virkler

LEARN Rivers of Grace notebook – Mark and Patti Virkler

Grace-Based Parenting – Dr. Tim Kimmel

Grace-Based Parenting Video Series #1: Creating an Atmosphere of Grace – Dr. Tim Kimmel

50 Ways to Really Love Your Kids – Dr. Tim Kimmel

Course Objectives

You will discuss at least eight rivers or channels the Lord has ordained by which He wants to pour grace into your home and your children.

- You will state the foundation and six pillars of the Leader's Paradigm.
- You will discuss the relationship between law and grace in the believer's life and the significance this has on your parenting of your children.
- You will discuss at least three reasons why it is vital that you honor your father and mother.
- You will contrast the Golden Rule with the Silver Rule.
- You will discuss the power of the Golden Rule in parenting.
- You will discuss how you will apply the Golden Rule to achieve the goals God has given you for raising your children.
- You will discuss ways in which you can show respect to your children.
- You will discuss the power of words to bring life and death.
- You will describe how the gifts of grace listed in Romans 12:6-8 apply to your parenting.
- You will discuss what the Lord has taught you concerning authority and submission in the body of Christ and in the home.
- You will state the meaning of the terms "bar mitzvah" and "bat mitzvah" and their significance in the life of a Jewish family.
- You will discuss how our view of God affects our parenting style.
- You will state and discuss the three driving inner needs of your children.
- You will discuss the unique place of grace in Christianity as opposed to the other religions of the world.
- You will discuss the relationship between grace and truth.
- You will discuss the source of the secure love our children (and we) need, and how parenting with grace can help instill this in them.
- You will discuss two reasons why the love our children feel from us may be incomplete, and purpose with God's grace to make any changes necessary to give them the secure love they need.
- You will state and discuss Dr. Kimmel's definition of love, and purpose with God's grace to love in this way.
- You will state and discuss three things that, done consistently, give your children a sense of security that keeps them from doubting God's love and your love, and purpose with God's grace to give your children what they need to feel a secure love.
- You will state and discuss the four layers or levels in which we need to find our purpose, and you will rely on God's grace to help you guide your children toward His purposes for them.
- You will state and discuss three things you can do to build a significant purpose into your children and

purpose with God's grace to give your children what they need to feel a significant purpose in their lives.

- You will discuss two things that we can do to help our children place their hope in the only true God, and you will rely on God's grace to more fully achieve these goals.
- You will state and discuss three things that enhance our children's ability to meet their need for hope in Christ and purpose with God's grace to give your children what they need to develop a strong hope in their lives.
- You will state and discuss the four essential freedoms that will show your children how to find love, purpose and hope in Jesus Christ.
- You will discuss principles that will help you give your children the grace to be different in the style they express without compromising their faith.
- You will give a definition of the "world" and the "things in the world" as used in I John 2:15-17.
- You will discuss the meaning of "idolatry" and how it relates to allowing our children freedom to express themselves.
- You will discuss how Jesus expressed grace to the vulnerable people who surrounded them on the cross.
- You will discuss why it is so important that we recognize and respond to the vulnerability of our children appropriately.
- You will discuss the difference between toxic honesty and grace-filled candor.

Behavioral:

- You will cooperate with the Lord in clearing the channels of grace He has given of all the debris caused by your own words and deeds.
- You will begin appropriating by faith the cross of Christ to break the power of generational sins and curses from your life and the lives of your children.
- You will be more aware of the sins in your life that allow curses to come upon you, and you will quickly repent, removing any cause or place for that curse to alight.
- You will establish or strengthen a godly heritage for your children, clearing this river of grace and blessing by which God wants to visit your home.

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, "C" or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least "B" (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a "B".

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, we are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- "D" • Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- "C" • Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- "B" • Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- "A" • Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

- You will state the goal(s) the Lord has given you in raising your children, and what that means specifically in terms of how you will train and discipline them.
- You will confidently recognize the voice of the Lord in your own heart, and you will guide your children into the same experience.
- You will honor your parents.
- You will more actively live by the Golden Rule in your home.
- You will purpose in your spirit to call on God's grace to speak only words that give life, especially in your home.
- You will pronounce a blessing over each of your children, as the Lord leads.
- You will recognize your children's strengths and receive instructions from God on how to raise them to be expert in their callings, that this river of grace may flow freely to and through them.
- You will recognize your children's "weaknesses," and receive instructions from God on how to train them to use these weaknesses as opportunities for the grace of God to be manifest in their lives.
- You will reject the condemnation and accusation of the enemy against you for your personal weaknesses, focusing instead on the power of Christ Who lives within you to will and to do His good pleasure.
- You will reject the condemnation and accusation of the enemy against your children for their weakness, and instead stand with the Comforter, Encourager and Exhorter Who builds them up in faith and courage.
- You will embrace the ministry of raising your children.
- You will know God's will for you concerning the education of your children, and you will obey it, by His grace.
- You will hear from the Lord His instructions for releasing your children into personal responsibility before Him, and by His grace, you will obey Him.
- You will daily rely on God's grace to help you be constantly aware of and meeting the inner needs of your children.
- You will purpose to rely on God's grace and power to help you give each of your children the freedom to be different.
- You will purpose by God's grace to give your children the freedom to be vulnerable with you.
- You will purpose by God's grace and power to always speak the truth in love, and to give your children the freedom to always be candid with you.
- You will help your children develop a relationship with the Lord that leads them to victory over sin, and shows them the way of grace and forgiveness when they give in to temptation.
- You will purpose by God's grace to create an atmosphere where your children are free to make mistakes.

Course Requirements:

PLEASE NOTE: The questions and exercises in this course assume that you currently have children you are raising and that you will be applying what you learn to your relationship with them. **IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY RAISING CHILDREN OR ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN, YOU CAN STILL COMPLETE THE EXERCISES.** The focus of this course is on increasing your ability to extend grace to others. This is not a skill that is limited to the parent/child relationship. Every relationship we have can be improved by increasing the grace we express and living out our sanctification more completely. Therefore, if you are not currently responsible for children, select at least one other relationship that you would like to improve. It may be with your spouse, with a parent, or just a friend. If you are in a position of leadership, the principles can be applied with those whom you lead, coach or mentor. Simply adjust the assignments as absolutely necessary, apply the principles appropriately, and discuss the results.

1. Completely read *Rivers of Grace* by Mark and Patti Virkler, answering questions as assigned in the Course Schedule. You will be asked to answer the questions from the "Suggestions for Groups" appendix. These questions are designed to stimulate thought, prayer, journaling and discussion, and support changes in your habits and lifestyle. The more time and effort you put into answering these questions, the more permanent and profound will be the effects on your life and family. Do not give one word or one sentence answers. Discuss!

NOTE: The answers to these questions will be submitted to your instructor at the end of the course for grading on completeness and personal thought and application. Therefore, you should prepare your

answers in the best possible way to do this. *Your instructors prefer to receive your work as **email attachments**.* If you are unable to submit your work by email, you may send a **COPY** of it to your instructor's physical address. Be sure that you do not send your only copy of your work as the postal system may lose it, especially if it must cross international borders.

2. Beginning with Lesson Two, prayerfully read one entry per day for five days each week from *50 Ways to Really Love Your Kids* by Dr. Tim Kimmel. These are very short entries and will not take more than a couple of minutes to read, but each is packed with wisdom and truth. Reading one each day will begin to saturate your mind and heart with the concept of parenting with grace and give the Holy Spirit tools by which He can shape your heart and behavior.
3. Prayerfully read *Grace-Based Parenting* by Dr. Tim Kimmel as assigned, answering the questions in the back of the text and in this Student Notebook. Do not simply answer Dr. Kimmel's questions through your own abilities, but use them to stimulate journaling, receiving the Lord's wisdom and direction for you.

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4. Listen to the *Rivers of Grace* CDs and watch the *Grace-Based Parenting* DVDs as assigned, taking notes as you listen.
5. Write a final paper, detailing what the Lord said to you and did in you and accomplished through you through the training in this course. Give specific examples. Include samples of your journaling. Describe your victories and your less than victorious moments, and what you learned from each. Explain any future actions you will be taking and why. This paper is to be submitted to your instructor in the final lesson (Lesson Twelve). It is to be a minimum of five typewritten pages, single spaced, maximum 12 point font.
6. Earn at least a "B" on all Tests (not Self-Tests).

COU 305 Parenting by Grace

Course Schedule

Lesson One

Assignment to be completed:

Listen to or watch Sessions 1 and 2 of the Rivers of Grace teaching, following along and taking notes in your *LEARN Rivers of Grace* notebook.

Prayerfully read the Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 of *Rivers of Grace*. Be sure to pray the prayer on page 26 of the text in faith and with vision.

Complete the Exercises given here in your Student Notebook for Lesson One.

Memorize Hebrews 8:10,11b.

Complete and correct Self-Test One.

Subjects to be explored:

Start with a Clean Slate

What Is Your Goal?

Related objectives:

- You will quote Hebrews 8:10,11b. (“For this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days,” says the Lord: “I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people... for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them.”)
- You will discuss at least eight rivers or channels the Lord has ordained by which He wants to pour grace into your home and your children.
- You will begin appropriating by faith the cross of Christ to break the power of generational sins and curses from your life and the lives of your children.
- You will be more aware of the sins in your life that allow curses to come upon you, and you will quickly repent, removing any cause or place for that curse to alight.
- You will establish or strengthen a godly heritage for your children, clearing this river of grace and blessing by which God wants to visit your home.
- You will state the goal(s) the Lord has given you in raising your children, and what that means specifically in terms of how you will train and discipline them.
- You will state the foundation and six pillars of the Leader’s Paradigm.
- You will confidently recognize the voice of the Lord in your own heart, and you will guide your children into the same experience.
- You will discuss the relationship between law and grace in the believer’s life and the significance this has on your parenting of your children.