

The Medicine of Life – The Grace Of Jesus

God is **LOVE!** (1 John 4:8) As a reflection of Himself (Genesis 1:26-27) the Creator designed humans to love. *'Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you. And, 'You must love your friend in the same way you love yourself.'* (Matthew 22:37-39) Love is the modus Operandi of living.

Whereas the Covid-19 virus began in Huanan China, the first virus in history began in a garden where Adam and Eve rebelliously chose a different design for living. Since then, the pandemic of sin has plagued every human being. *Everyone sins! Everyone falls short of God's glorious standard (LOVE).* (Romans 3:23) We're **DIS-EASED** at every level of our being! Even nature is infected! (Romans 8:22)



Though our prognosis is extremely bleak, we're not hopeless. The Creator refused to abandon his original design! *His forever-plan remains in place and will never fail.* (Psalm 33:17) Rooted in his heart of compassion (Psalm 103:13), Father developed medicine to cure our **dis-ease**.



Father's medicine is called **GRACE**: God's Restoration At Christ's Expense! *We are saved* (this word also means "made whole" and "restored") *by grace* ... "Grace is being loved when you are unlovable." (Tullian Tchividjian) The old hymn calls it "**amazing**." Why? Grace is extremely costly. *He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.* (Isaiah 53:6) Nonetheless, it's a GIFT! *We are saved by grace ... a GIFT from God.* Ephesians 2:8 "This vulgar grace is indiscriminate compassion. It works without asking anything of us." (Brennan Manning)

Healing Steps

1 Recognize the symptoms of **dis-ease**. Physically, it could be a temperature of 104 degrees, recurring chest pain, prolonged abdominal pain, or deep depression. Here are a few symptoms of falling short of God's standard of **LOVE**. *Love cares more for others than for self, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, puts up with anything, and isn't always "me first".* (1 Corinthians 13:3-7)



Visit your Family Doctor. *The Holy Spirit makes God's fatherhood real to us as he whispers into our innermost being, "You are God's beloved child!"* (Romans 8:16) No appointment needed. He's available 24/7 via voice visits; that is, prayer. "Prayer is a place where God and humans meet." (Philip Yancey)



Tell the Doctor the exact nature of your symptoms. *When a person is guilty in any of these, he should tell of the sin he has done.* (Leviticus 5:5) This is called "confession." "Confession of sin shows us more clearly our need of mercy-and endears God's mercy more to us." (Joseph Caryl)



Take the medicine **DAILY**. Every day we fall short of God's design for living/loving. Hence, every day we need **GRACE**. *We acknowledge you as our Provider of all we need each day.* (Matthew 6:11)