

Teaching Sovereign Grace to a Six-Year-Old

- I. It is important to be able to explain things simply, and the doctrine of Sovereign Grace is no exception.
 1. "If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself." (Albert Einstein)
 2. "We should know our subject profoundly and share it simply." (William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, p. 125)
 3. "Think as wise men do, but speak as the common people do." (Aristotle)

- II. This outline is designed to be used to teach sovereign grace to a six-year-old.

- III. What is "sovereign grace"?
 1. "Sovereign" describes something that a king does.
 - A. A king is a ruler that does whatever he wants.
 - B. He tells people what to do.
 - C. God is the ruler of earth and tells everyone what to do.
 - D. God controls everything.
 2. "Grace" is when someone is nice to you when they don't have to be.
 - A. If your daddy tells you to stop running in the house or else you will get a spanking, and you run in the house, then you deserve a spanking.
 - B. If you run in the house and your daddy spanks you for it, you got what you deserved.
 - C. If you run in the house and your daddy decides to not spank you, then he showed grace to you.
 3. "Sovereign grace" therefore means that God chooses to not punish some people for the sins they commit and to instead be kind to them.

- IV. Why do we need God's grace?
 1. We are all sinners (**Rom 3:23**).
 2. Sin is when we break God's law, when we do something that God tells us not to do (**1Jo 3:4**).
 3. We are born sinners.
 - A. The first man Adam sinned in the garden of Eden (**Gen 2:17 c/w Gen 3:6**).
 - B. When Adam had children, they were born sinners just like he was after he sinned (**Rom 5:12**).
 - C. Children inherit things from their parents.
 - i. Kids often look like their parents.
 - ii. Kids often talk like their parents.
 - iii. Kids also inherit their spiritual nature from their parents.
 - a. Our spiritual nature is what makes us think and act the way we do.
 - b. It's kind of like an instinct that animals are born with.
 - c. Birds will build nests without being taught.
 - d. Groundhogs will dig holes without being taught.
 - e. Bees build hives without being taught.
 - D. Our spiritual nature causes us to want to do bad things without being taught to do so.
 - i. When your parents tell you to do something that you don't want to do, your nature makes you want to not do it.

- ii. When God tells you to do something that you don't want to do (like obeying your parents or not hitting other kids), your nature makes you want to not do it.
 - E. We can't change our evil nature, just like birds can't stop being birds, groundhogs can't stop being groundhogs, and bees can't stop being bees.
 - F. Our spiritual nature makes us bad people.
 - G. Our spiritual nature will not allow us to seek God or do the good things that He tells us to do (**Rom 3:9-12**).
 - H. In fact, our spiritual nature is so incapable of doing the things that God tells us to that it is called "dead" (**Eph 2:1**).
 - i. Have you ever seen a dead person at a funeral?
 - ii. The dead man's body is not able to do anything, like walking, eating, or talking.
 - iii. A person that is spiritually dead can't do anything spiritual for God like knowing Him, understanding Him, believing in Him, or obeying Him.
 - I. The only way that a dead man can ever come back to life is for God to resurrect him, which means to make him alive again.
 - J. In the same way, the only way for a man who is spiritually dead to have spiritual life so that he can believe in and obey God is for God to resurrect him spiritually, which means to make him alive spiritually so that he thinks differently and wants to obey God and make Him happy (**Eph 2:1-5, 10**).
4. God is holy (**1Pe 1:15-16**).
- A. That means that God is perfect, and He never does anything bad.
 - B. God never thinks of anything bad.
 - C. God is perfectly clean.
 - D. Heaven, where God lives, is perfectly clean.
 - E. God can't even look at sinners (people who do bad things that He says not to do) (**Hab 1:13**).
 - F. Sinners cannot live with God in heaven (**Psa 5:4**).
5. God's punishment for sin is death (**Rom 6:23**).
- A. The death is eternal punishment in hell (**Luk 16:23**).
 - B. If we are judged by God for the bad things we have done, we will be sent to the lake of fire (**Rev 20:12-15**).
 - C. Do you see now why we need God's grace?
 - D. If God doesn't show grace to us, we will get what we deserve and be punished in hell for all eternity after we die.

V. God's plan to save us from our sins and going to hell

- 1. Before God created the world, He chose to save some people from going to hell and to take them to heaven with Him (**Eph 1:4**).
 - A. These people are called "the elect" in the Bible.
 - B. Calling them "elect" means that they were chosen by God.
 - C. When we elect a president, we choose him.
- 2. God did this because He decided to love them, even when they didn't love Him (**Rom 5:8-10**).
- 3. Because God is good and fair, He could not let the elected people not be punished for their sins (**Nah 1:3**).
- 4. The punishment for their sins is death in hell, but if God sends them to hell, then they can't go to heaven to be with Him.

5. So God came up with a plan that would allow for their sins to be punished *and* for them to go to heaven.
6. God would become a man and live a perfect life and die for those people in their place (**1Jo 3:16**).
 - A. This man that God became was Jesus Christ (**Joh 1:1, 14**).
 - B. Since God was His father, Jesus didn't have a sinful spiritual nature like the rest of us.
 - C. Jesus was a "whipping boy" for us.
 - i. A long time ago, kings had boys called "whipping boys" that would be punished when their sons did something wrong.
 - ii. If their son lied and he needed a spanking, the whipping boy would be spanked instead and the son would have to watch.
 - iii. This is what Jesus is for us. We sinned, and He was punished for it.
 - D. Jesus lived a perfect life and never once sinned (**1Pe 2:22**).
 - E. Because He had no sin, He could die for the sins of the elect whom God chose to save (**2Co 5:21**).
 - F. Jesus was beaten badly and then crucified (killed by hanging on a cross) for our sins (**1Co 15:3; 1Pe 2:24**).
 - G. Jesus suffered all of the punishment on the cross that we would have suffered in hell.
 - H. When Jesus died He was buried for three days, and then He rose again (God caused Him to come back to life) (**1Co 15:4**).
7. After Jesus died for our sins, God was no longer angry with us for our sins because He had punished Jesus for them (**1Jo 2:2**).
8. After Jesus took our sins away, He sent the Holy Spirit to give us eternal life by giving us a new spirit.
 - A. This is called regeneration (**Tit 3:5**).
 - B. The new spirit will live forever. After we die it will go to heaven to be with God (**2Co 5:8**).
 - C. The new spirit makes us able to believe in God and obey Him when we hear about what He did for us (**1Co 2:12**).
 - D. When we believe that Jesus is God and that He died for our sins and saved us, we can know that we have eternal life and that we will go to heaven when we die (**Joh 5:24**).
 - E. When we understand that, we must repent of our sins and do what God tells us to in the Bible (**Mar 1:15**).
 - F. To repent means to feel sorry for the bad things we have done and to decide to quit doing those things.
 - G. When we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus, we should get baptized (**Act 2:37-38**).
 - i. Baptism is when the pastor dunks you under water and brings you back up again.
 - ii. It is a picture of Jesus dying for our sins and being buried and rising again (**Rom 6:4**).
 - iii. When we are baptized, we publicly tell everyone that we believe in Jesus and that we are going to follow Him for the rest of our lives.
 - iv. Being baptized makes us a member of the church where we learn about God and worship Him for saving us (**Act 2:41-42**).
9. Someday Jesus will come back from heaven, and He will resurrect the dead and create a new earth where all of His people will be with Him forever (**1Th 4:16-17; Rev 21:1-3**).