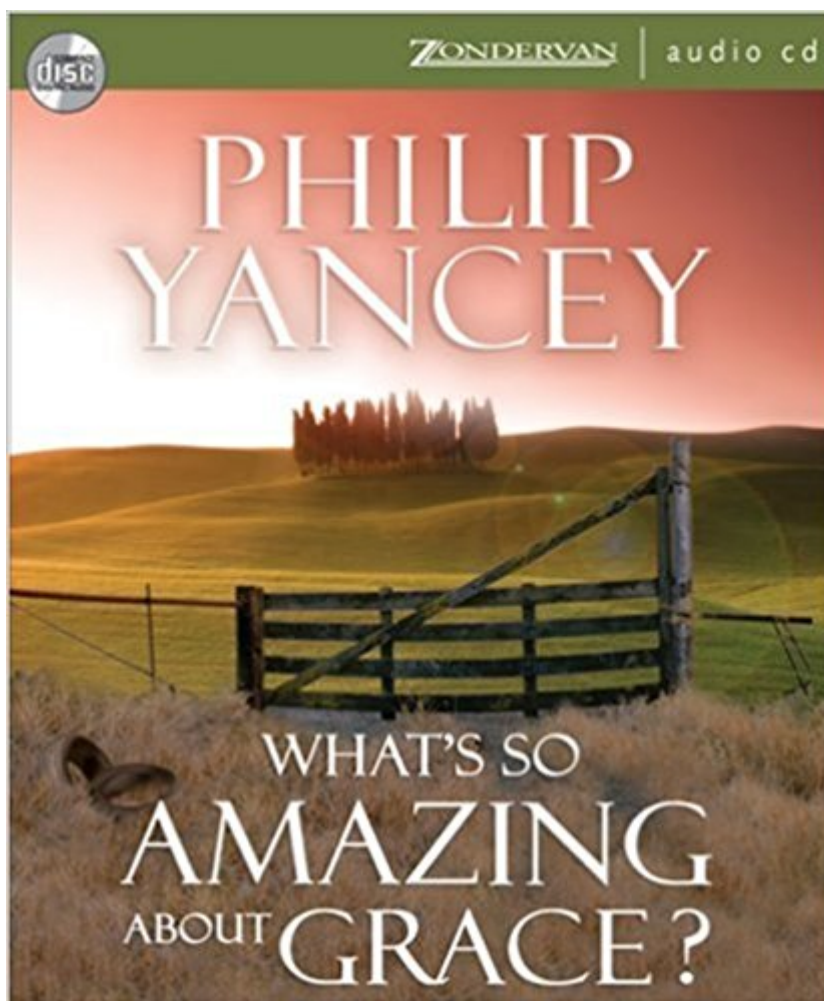


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# What's So Amazing About Grace?



## Synopsis

In 1987, an IRA bomb buried Gordon Wilson and his twenty-year-old daughter beneath five feet of rubble. Gordon alone survived. And forgave. He said of the bombers, 'I have lost my daughter, but I bear no grudge ... I shall pray, tonight and every night, that God will forgive them.' His words caught the media's ears--and out of one man's grief, the world got a glimpse of grace. Grace is the church's great distinctive. It's the one thing the world cannot duplicate, and the one thing it craves above all else--for only grace can bring hope and transformation to a jaded world. In *What's So Amazing About Grace?* award-winning author Philip Yancey explores grace at street level. If grace is God's love for the undeserving, he asks, then what does it look like in action? And if Christians are its sole dispensers, then how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and unforgiveness than it does of mercy? Yancey sets grace in the midst of life's stark images, tests its mettle against horrific 'ungrace.' Can grace survive in the midst of such atrocities as the Nazi holocaust? Can it triumph over the brutality of the Ku Klux Klan? Should any grace at all be shown to the likes of Jeffrey Dahmer, who killed and cannibalized seventeen young men? Grace does not excuse sin, says Yancey, but it treasures the sinner. True grace is shocking, scandalous. It shakes our conventions with its insistence on getting close to sinners and touching them with mercy and hope. It forgives the unfaithful spouse, the racist, the child abuser. It loves today's AIDS-ridden addict as much as the tax collector of Jesus' day. In his most personal and provocative book ever, Yancey offers compelling, true portraits of grace's life-changing power. He searches for its presence in his own life and in the church. He asks, How can Christians contend graciously with moral issues that threaten all they hold dear? And he challenges us to become living answers to a world that desperately wants to know, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mention the word "grace" and what immediately comes to mind for most of us is a bagpipe wailing the solemn notes of "Amazing Grace." The grace of which Philip Yancey writes is the freely given and unmerited favor and love of God. This grace seems a remote, almost sentimental concept, without a place in our lives or our society. It is a vague, slippery thing to us, probably because we seem to experience grace so rarely and have managed to leech the word of meaning. But Philip Yancey has set about to rescue grace in his book *What's So Amazing About Grace?* This grace is the true message of Jesus. All faiths have virtues and creeds and justice and truth, but Jesus speaks merely of receiving the love that God has for us. Accepting it, not earning it or making ourselves worthy of it. And frankly, accepting something we have not earned or are not worthy of is not an easy thing for most of us. In truth, grace is both utterly simple and utterly confounding. Little by little, Yancey guides us into a clearer understanding of grace by using stories, in much the same way Jesus did. We read stories of both grace and ungrace at work in people's lives. Sadly, it is stories of ungrace that are more prevalent today, the current culture wars painful acknowledgments of ungrace in our lives as Christians in this country. Yancey helps us understand that ungrace is that state of being in which self-righteousness and pride are a result of thinking that we have somehow earned God's approval and may now stand in judgment in his behalf. Philip Yancey was awarded the Gold Medallion Christian Book of the Year award for this book in 1998 by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. Readers concurred with this decision, making this book an immediate bestseller. Believers and nonbelievers alike should accept Yancey's challenge to become agents of grace rather than agents of vengeance or judgment or anger. In truth, we are each starving for grace, ready to grasp it tightly. And it is through grace that all other hungers--for justice, for righteousness, for love--are satisfied. Yancey opens his book by telling us that "grace" is the last best word, and in *What's So Amazing About Grace?*, he proves that he's right. --Patricia Klein --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

The *Jesus I Never Knew* and *What's So Amazing About Grace?* have influenced the Christian church in a way few other books ever have. Both have ascended to the ranks of ongoing best-sellers. Both have won the Gold Medallion Book of the Year Award--fitting recognition for what may well be Philip Yancey's two most significant books to date. And now the previously abridged

audio editions of these two remarkable works come unabridged. Read by professional narrator Bill Richards, here are Yancey's complete, passionate, personal insights into the person of Jesus and the nature of grace--with the convenience and flexibility of Zondervan Audio Pages. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

This helped me immensely with learning to forgive, which is one of the hardest things to do. But the alternative of holding a grudge is worse. The need for grace is so necessary for our relationships to not deteriorate. We will always be wounded and offended by others' sinful nature that it is grace that allows us to move forward and stop the pattern of hurt. This book sobered me with the need to show grace rather than judgment because that is why we ourselves are in favor with God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Every Christian needs to read this book! In fact, they need to read it again and again and again! This book challenged my thinking and forced me to do some very serious heart searching. WARNING! You will want to hate this book because it is painful to look into the mirror and see potentially ugly things about yourself. However, if you truly want to live the way God intends you to live, if you want to love the way God intends you to love, then do not throw this book out the window. Read it slowly and take the time to pray about what Phillip Yancey is sharing. If you push religious mindsets out of the way and look deep into the heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus, you will emerge at the end of this book with way more humility than you began with and a desire to be a "grace-full" Christian.

What is the thing that distinguishes Christianity from the world's other religions? Grace. Other religions teach how to earn your way to God. Christianity is God reaching down and offering the gift of grace.

My chemo nurse who had become a dear friend recommended this book. She said it change her and her husband's lives and ministry and I can see how now that I've read this book. Phillip Yancey challenges us to live our lives showing the grace that Jesus showed the he encountered in his ministry and, one assumes, people he encountered before he began his public ministry. He challenges those who are feeling smug in their salvation but still abuse those that are deemed "unacceptable". The beauty of grace is that because of Jesus' sacrifice, we're ALL acceptable. I read this book in "small bites" so that I could think about what I had read and how it applies to me and

how I could do better in showing and giving grace to others.

Very important book about Grace. Many people have read this book by now, and you can see the results all around the world. More people are accepting "different" people. I learned important lessons in this book about not worrying about other people's sins--that is between them and God. What a relief! I don't have to be judgmental, in fact, we are admonished in the Bible not to be. I highly recommend this book to anyone who believes in God.

This book was one of several options that I had to choose from for a class assignment. I chose it not because I particularly wanted to read it, but rather because it looked less boring than the other choices. I am so thankful that I picked *What's So Amazing About Grace?* to read for my class. It was absolutely inspirational. Yancy does a fantastic job of establishing his stand on the subject of grace and then backing up his claims with significant evidence. I personally am a Christian and I believe that having grace in one's life can be life-changing. Yancy, however, points out that grace, while it is the only "good" word left, is lacking in some areas of the world where we as Christians would expect it to be. The church should be the home of grace, yet it has become to many a place of judgment. One particular section of this book stuck with me. Yancy said that church should be a place we go to get cleaned up, not a place where we have to clean up before going to. Grace is so important and this book really stresses that, but it also shows how as Christians we have become recognized as ungraceful. Yancy does such an amazing job of telling his thoughts on grace without making this a difficult read. He uses stories to illustrate a point and then analyzes key sections from that story afterwards. The analysis is where the reflection happens. This reflection is what makes the book so inspirational. Yancy's analysis make the reader think about their own lives and how they could improve with the addition of grace into their daily lives. The only thing he could have done better was to strengthen his transitions between stories, yet that is so minor when compared to everything that is done so well in this book. Overall, this book is well worth reading. It is interesting and will make one think about how they could be more grace-filled in their every day life. I recommend this to everyone, but specifically Christians. It is humbling because Yancy places a lot of the blame for why Christians are viewed as ungraceful in today's society on those who call themselves 'Christians'. He says that in order to change how Christianity is viewed, we must change how Christians are viewed by the world. It is absolutely a must read.

Yancy's, in his well thought out and well researched style never fails to please and this book is no

exception. Christians are called to a different standard that can bring ridicule from others but often we take on very unChrist like attitudes and means when dealing with others with a different point of view. Yancey points out that such action is not Christ like and only creates anger rather than a change of attitude.

Grace... Five letter word packed with a priceless meaning. It's more than unmerited favor... It's more than blessing your meal before you eat.. It's beyond a time frame. Grace is amazing in and of itself. Pick up your copy for an in depth understanding of G-r-a-c-e.

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