

Grounded in Grace

Summer 2015

Grace Roads Counseling Center

Volume 3 Issue # 1

Steve Benson's

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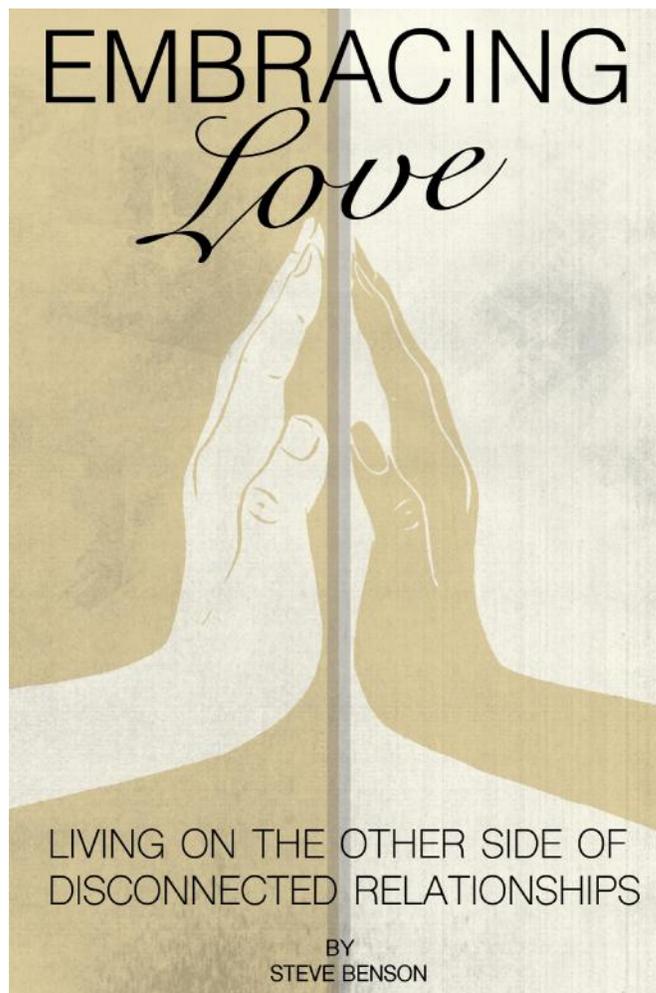
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COMING THIS FALL . . .



Have you felt confused and isolated in relationships?

Do you feel a “wall” between you and others that can’t be explained?

Have you felt lost in conflicted relational chaos?

Do you feel an emotional disconnection between you, others and God?

If so, keep reading:

“Embracing Love” takes us on a journey through living out the implications of love. By understanding the consequences of hiding behind our inner “wall,” we discover our emotional disconnections that keep us from giving and receiving love. Through the author’s personal story and those of others, we will understand the intricacies of living an authentic life.

This book invites those to explore what it means love others well, to live beyond fear, and to embrace life as it was designed. It is for those who are tired of hiding, willing to risk being exposed, and desiring to be transformed by God’s embracing love. “Embracing Love” dares you to discover the other side of just living in loveless, chaotic, and disconnected relationships.

The Word

*became flesh and made
his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory,
the glory of the one and
only Son, who came
from the Father, full of
grace and truth.*

John 1:14



Zoe Grace's First Birthday

On April 1st we celebrated Zoe Grace's first birthday. It has been a joy to watch her grow this year. We have seen her loving personality and her mischievous smile. She often says, "Bwy- Bwy." This is her name for our collie Bryson. She calls us "Mama" and "Dada." She is a lover of people and continues to bless us. What a joy to be her mommy and daddy. We are privileged to have the opportunity to love her. She has begun walking, communicating and allowing us to observe her incredible personality. Zoe Grace is a true blessing.

Grace Roads Counseling: Teaching And Training

Over the last few months, God has opened the door to teach several seminars on addiction issues, crisis and grief, resolving conflict, and understanding the process of reconciliation. It has been a wonderful time of watching God work, seeing tears, and being a witness to grace.

This summer I am teaching an on-line class and mentoring a student through a directed study class on addictions at Charlotte Christian College. God also continues to grow Grace Roads Counseling Center in helping people discover grace along the roads of their lives. It has been a fruitful six months of ministry. Below are a few more opportunities I have to teach over the next few months:

July 10th Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary- 6:30-9:30pm
Guest lecturer on addiction

October 19th AHEC Seminar- Embracing Love: Living On the Other Side of
Disconnected Relationships

In October, I have the privilege to present a seminar on my new book published by West Bow Press, a subsidiary of Thomas Nelson Publishing. Please continue to pray that God will open doors for the gospel to be preached, for people to find healing, and for many to embrace love. There will be more information to come on the book and seminar.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.
Philippians 1:9-11

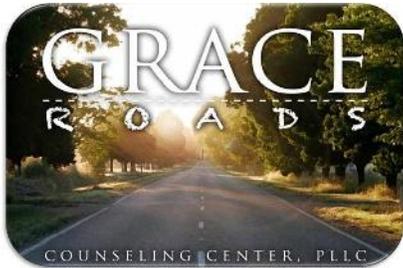
Seven Lessons I Learned About The Father

Over the past year of being a father to Zoe Grace, I have pondered about the way God relates to me as his adopted child. So below are seven simple lessons I have learned or relearned about my Father in heaven.

1. Our Father hears the cries of our hearts. He knows when we hurt and when we are trying to communicate our thoughts without having the ability to say our words. He is intimately involved with every tear drop before they came to be.
2. Our Father loves it when we cling, snuggle, and laugh with him. He loves when we sit on his lap and say, “Da-Da.” And when we feel alone, he wants us to reach out our arms, open up are hands and just ask to be held. In opening our hands, we give in to his loving embrace.
3. Our Father enjoys cleaning us up after we get ourselves messy. He loves to put us in a bath tub and to allow his love, grace, and mercy to be the soap that cleans us up. He embraces us when we are smelly, cranky, and even poopy.
4. Our Father loves to see us develop into who we were designed to be. He loves to let us explore, crawl, and learn to walk on our own. And when we need a hand to hold or are scared of the big unknown, He loves to grab our hand and say, “I’m here and I’m not going anywhere.”
5. Our Father will allow us to cry ourselves to sleep instead of rescuing us from what we need. He loves us by allowing us to fail and not rescuing us from it. In learning to fall, He gives us what we need and not what we want. It is in those times we learn to cry for dependence upon Him.
6. Our Father loves to lavish gifts on us when we are able to handle them as blessings. He loves to give us gifts when we think of them as blessings and are able to use them appropriately. He loves to lavish the blessings of presents when we understand that gifts are illustrations of love from the giver.
7. Our Father adopted us not for anything we have done but because he chose us before the beginning of time. Our Father loves to love. He does not give us gifts to bribe us nor does he accept our performance as merit for his love. He loves us in the joys and in the sorrows. He loves us when we are splashing around and when we just need a hug. In essence, He chose to love his adopted children because He just did. It is that pure and that simple.

*What a joy to learn more about my Father because I was given the gift of my daughter. A wonder, a majesty,
and a joy to ponder. Thank you little young lady for your precious gift to me!*

Finding Grace Along the Roads of Life



www.groundedinGrace.net

Vision: To provide teaching, training, and counseling that will enable individuals, families, and churches to experience God's powerful grace in transforming their stories.

Mission: To provide a pathway for people struggling on their journey to find hope for their broken hearts, healing for their wounds, and a hiding place to wrestle with the grace of God