



# Hyper-Grace: Exposing the Dangers of the Modern Grace Message

*Michael L. Brown*

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## **Hyper-Grace: Exposing the Dangers of the Modern Grace Message Michael L. Brown**

### **The great deception of the 21st century**

At a time when the church needs an urgent wake-up call and a fresh encounter with Jesus, the hyper-grace message is lulling many to sleep. Claiming to be a new revelation of grace, this teaching is gaining in popularity, but is it true? Or is the glorious truth of grace being polluted by errors, leading to backsliding, compromise, and even the abandonment of faith?

*Hyper-Grace* looks at the major teachings put forth by many adherents of this “grace reformation” and prayerfully compares those teachings with the Word of God, answering questions such as:

- How do our sins affect our relationship with God?
- What is the relevance of the Old Testament to our faith?
- What does Jesus actually have to say about grace?

Without watering down the Bible’s true message of grace, Michael Brown gives you the facts, demonstrating the dangers of this seductive message and showing you how to keep from being taken in.

## **Hyper-Grace: Exposing the Dangers of the Modern Grace Message Details**

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Michael L. Brown**

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# From Reader Review Hyper-Grace: Exposing the Dangers of the Modern Grace Message for online ebook

**Don Incognito says**

I purposed to read this book because I read Dr. Brown referring (with this title or in an article, I don't remember) to something called hyper-grace. Hyper-grace? It pretty clearly wasn't taught by my Southern Baptist church or in any of the books I read, or extolled by any Christian friends I interact with, because (similarly to some other reviewers) I had never heard of it or heard of the major preachers or writers who apparently teach it. Being inquisitive, I immediately wanted to know what hyper-grace is, preferably from perspectives both for and against. So I first read *The Naked Gospel* by Andrew Farley, whose book I saw suggested at Amazon among the pro-hyper-grace books; then this book.

Hyper-grace, as described by Dr. Brown (with heavy quotation from hyper-grace teachers themselves) and interpreted by me, is fairly easy to understand and avoid, because much of it sounds so absurd as to insult the intelligence of Christians who have received salvation and spent much time reading the Bible. Hyper-grace teaches that under grace, you don't need to (and shouldn't, even) pay attention to the Ten Commandments or confess sins to God after being saved (because all future sins are forgiven, per hyper-). Although, in comparison the hyper-grace teachers don't seem to emphasize ignoring the Ten Commandments, but they particularly insist that confessing sins is wrong--a sin, even.

In short, hyper-grace is simply the opposite extreme from legalism. Had I been in the position of Dr. Brown or some other Bible teacher, I would have regretted needing to dignify hyper-grace with a response. But substantial numbers of Christians have received this teaching and believe it. When I read this, in exasperation I stopped reading the book very closely, ignoring most of the pro-hyper-grace quotations (or even Dr. Brown's deflations of them).

More interesting than the obnoxious tenets of the doctrine itself are the comparisons with legalism and also ancient Christian heresies. Dr. Brown gives a quotation from some hyper-grace teacher fervently opposing confession and offering an alternative prayer that pointedly refuses to confess; Dr. Brown then opines that the prayer sounded "extremely legalistic." (Also patronizing to God, I thought.) I interpreted Dr. Brown's remark as a hint that despite purporting to counter legalism, militant hyper-grace (not necessarily all hyper-grace teaching) may itself be a new, clever repackaging of legalism. Brown outright states that the strongest hyper-grace teaching (again, not necessarily the more subtle forms) approach Gnosticism in their willingness to ignore sin. Also, a few hyper-grace teachers teach that the Old Testament is irrelevant and believers in Christ can ignore it.

Brown devotes a chapter to observing that this approximates the Christian heresy of Marcionism, which rejects the OT and even much of the NT. (I wanted to note that Marcionism otherwise is dead and buried, but it's actually not. I didn't know what it was until Brown explained it; but then I immediately recognized that hyper-grace aside, Marcion's idea that the OT God is not the NT God is common enough among contemporary Bible critics.) Anyway, hyper-grace teachers' rationalization for ignoring much of the NT is that much of Jesus' teachings, and Jesus Himself, were "under the old covenant." Excuse me? ...This represents why I had stopped taking the idea of hyper-grace seriously once I understood it. Jesus under a covenant? He *made* the covenant, you clowns. It's somewhat like the Pharisees demanding that Jesus observe Sabbath regulations.

And my copy of *The Naked Gospel*, which I bought because local libraries didn't carry it, is now sitting in a receptacle waiting to be recycled.

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## **Shirley Baskett says**

A very good summary of the theology around the current Grace messages

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## **Christopher says**

A must read for all Christians who has served Jesus for longer than a year.

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## **Godly says**

Dealing with the erroneous 'free/effortless/hyper grace' teaching of Womack, Prince Crowder, Bell and others, Dr. Brown very directly refutes them by expounding on scripture and by going back to other men of God who taught the same. The modern teaching of Hyper Grace by teaching a false view of God, Man and Grace is nothing more than neo-Gnosticism repackaged. It denies the impact of Sin and the need for Repentance and Holiness in a Christian's life by conflating Justification and Positional Sanctification into ongoing progressive Sanctification and future Glorification. This teaching has led to many false assurance given to men and leads many on the broad road. I appreciated Dr. Brown's lengthy quotes of primary sources when critiquing it and also the many references to the biblical teachers(ironically most of them are Calvinists) who prove Dr. Brown's exegesis and understanding of Grace to be right. The Kindle version of the book has some defects (incomplete appendix/missing bibliography) that needs to be corrected. Read this if you want to understand this modern heresy and be ready to defend biblical Grace!

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## **Joanne says**

Michael Brown misrepresents John Calvin and Martin Luther, carrying forward fallacious popular thought. He is confused on the distinctive difference between the act of saving grace that justifies us in Christ Jesus, and the work of saving grace that sanctifies us in Christ Jesus. Speaking as one who was conservative evangelical baptist, now gospel confessional Presbyterian (a long way of saying I am a believer in Jesus Christ who lives by the inspired inerrant Word of God), Michael Brown has expressed poor understanding of key doctrines, and misunderstanding of Scripture. Hard to enjoy a book on grace when he does not present the truth if grace adequately, by historic church leaders who Paved the road for us.

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## **Cheryl says**

Exposing the Dangers of the Modern Grace Message

This book is all about doctrine, the doctrine of grace, modern grace, hyper-grace or what others term the grace reformation. It names names....like Joseph Prince, Clark Whitten, Steve McVey, Andrew Farley, Rob Rufus, Paul Ellis, John Crowder, John Sheasby and others. Most of these men I have never even heard of.

Even though Mr. Brown names names he is neutral in tone and never accusatory nor condemning. On the contrary several times he allows for the fact that some people are truly highly blessed by the modern grace message. What he objects to is it's imbalance.

This author is very good at differentiating between things and qualifying things. He is extremely thorough and with great detail goes over every "stone". I would even classify this book as scholarly in that regard.

Some of the actual doctrines or issues that Mr. Brown addresses are the forgiveness of future sins, the need for the ongoing confession of the saints, ongoing sanctification and repentance and conviction of sin. He helped to clear up an issue I had with one the author's mentioned and helped me to understand why I didn't agree with this particular author, in a way that I would now be able to explain it to other people.

Imbalanced doctrine seems to stem from taking a truth from scripture and then completely ignoring or justifying away any scriptures that seem to say the opposite when in fact there are lots of dichotomies in His Word that require us to blend seemingly opposite views. Taking all scriptures on any certain topic, without injecting any pre-conceived notions into them is the only way to arrive at balanced views. This book illustrates this truth very well.

If you have felt uneasy about some of the modern grace teachings and didn't quite know why or was unable to articulate why they were wrong but would like to be able to, this book is for you. If you think you may have been deceived and want to find out for sure, this book is for you. In any case, real truth is able to stand up to scrutiny.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Charisma House Publishers through their blogging for books program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Ip Sing says**

Took me a while to get this book finished. Very well written book with solid content arguing against the hyper grace movement.

Dr Brown has presented his arguments in a logical and structured manner, backed by biblical interpretation.

Highly recommended read for anyone wanting to find out more about the dangers of hyper grace.

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### **John says**

Dr. Michael Brown does what he said in his sub-title: exposes the Biblical fallacies and false emphases of the Hyper-Grace theology and how dangerous such a belief would be to a believers relationship with God.

My problem—and I did have a problem with the material—was that it is argumentative by nature. I am tired of arguing.

A number of Christian books are written in the spirit of confronting controversy—some in the name of controversy, others in the spirit of full-disclosure of the true message of Scripture. This idea in of of itself had value to, probably, most Christians but not for me. I am into the Psalms and talking life, not theology.

Dr. Brown writes in a true spirit of Christian love—even Jesus who is the Spirit of Divine love incarnate had to call a Pharisee a pharisee at times. Exposing hypocrisy, heresy, a divisive spirit and all things bad for Christianity—well, it—has to be said by someone, somehow and Michael Brown thankfully is willing to take the heat to expose these.

It just does;t make favorite reading for this old man... any more.

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### **Parker Wagnon says**

Great book that every christian should read.

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### **Phylicia Masonheimer says**

Fascinating look at the extreme side of the grace spectrum in Christian faith. Brown does a great job of breaking down the arguments and making a defense for the true gospel according to Scripture.

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### **Jacob O'connor says**

Not what I expected. Michael Brown is taking on the Rasputin strain of Christianity. Anything goes because I'm a believer. I was looking for his thoughts on apostasy and maybe a breakdown of some of those Bible passages. Still, it's a worthwhile read for Brown's unequalled polemical skill.

Notes:

- (1) The difference between Christianity and every other religion is Grace (13)
- (2) Confession compared to a lifetime voucher for car washes (ala foot washing) (81)
- (3) We can now keep the law because it's written on our heart? (202)
- (4) Brown has a gift for "taking the roof off" (207). He shows how certain passages are ridiculous when read according to the "Hyper grace" grid.
- (5) Good counter to the idea that Jesus was only addressing Jews or his direct hearers in the Gospels (231). Do we really think it's so narrow an audience? Why record, study and distribute if the message if it wasn't for the church?
- (6) I bought the book for Brown's discussion of eternal security, but it's relegated to an appendix (265)
- (7) Perseverance of the saints commits the Scotsman fallacy. If someone falls away, we can always say he was never one of the elect (265)

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## **Aisha says**

This was a chore to read. It's probably a 5 star on thought, effort, comprehensiveness and soundness - but a 3 for me on my interest level on this topic - so giving it a 4. I wasn't raised under the law or in legalism - so certain things about this movement (before I knew it was a movement) didn't appeal or ever make sense. I was given this book and didn't realize it was a theological step by step through the hyper grace movement. John Crowder (I believe he's the token' the Baby Jesus and angel feathers evangelist) and others are mentioned that have a colorful "free grace" stance. The author does a great job of systematically going over pros and cons in their teaching. He quotes different pastors extensively and then addresses each concern. He freely attributes and quotes a few named pastors (not John Crowder) what they are solid on and what he can absolutely agree on based on scripture. It's not an all out attack, but a thoughtful and concerned missive. The author is a long time Hebrew scholar - I would take note. Not perhaps a good read for anyone without any theological standing - it would just be confusing and boring. Confusing because he quotes the authors and their errors - so one has to really be paying attention to every sentence. But for people who want to dig into this subject - the author has it segmented into 14 chapters by topic so one could also just use as a reference for what appealed to them. Also I could see this helpful for those who are in a church where these things start to come through and one senses they aren't quite right but wants to jump in and figure out why. Use this as a reference. Does your pastor tell you that all your sins have been forgiven and you never need to ask forgiveness again because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross? Read this book. Does your pastor say you can be without sin? Really read this book. Does your pastor preach free grace - whatever you do and however you live it doesn't matter because of Jesus? Read this book. Maybe you gladly threw off all law and legalism when someone told you that you didn't have to live like that - and perhaps you went too far and scriptures commandments ruffle your edges. Might want to check this out. There is healing and truth under the shadow of the Almighty... As a fairly non-denominational Christian in a SBA affiliated church, I found the author's urge to live in real relationship with the Lord, strive for purity and holiness and read and be transformed by the Bible to be encouraging. His personal testimony of simply being captivated by Jesus and wanting to spend hours every day with Him was lovely and something I simply have never experienced. The appendix on "once saved always saved" piqued my interest because I've always been taught surety and confidence in my salvation. Lots to think about.

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## **Patrick Conley says**

Dr. Brown does a wonderful job Biblically countering the fallacies of the Modern Grace movement. A should read in this hour.

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## **Ken Hawn says**

### **What a great book !**

This was all new material for me. I've been a Christian for 50 years and never heard of hyper-Grace. the book explains this new doctrine and the dangers that it presents. Every Christian needs to read this book so they don't fall into the trap of cheap deceiving Grace. To think that the words of Jesus spoken before the cross has no relevance for believers today is just ridiculous. Michael Brown is a great writer and Bible

scholar. I believe the book speaks to the church today.

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## **Peter Laman says**

So, after I marked the book as '100% read' on this website, Goodreads automatically displayed: "I'm finished with Hyper-Grace". And so it is! After having read *Destined to Reign* before, by HC preacher Joseph Prince and now Dr. Brown's book, I can only say Michael Brown has a much more profound and solid theological approach to the subject. Where Prince excels in taking verses out of context and putting meaning into them, while ignoring other scriptures, Dr. Brown puts the verses back into their context. Dr. Brown's book radiates a deep respect for letting the scripture tell its own message instead of making it support a preconceived theology.

HC is a typical example of 'exaggeration theology', where bible texts are selected based on the desired outcome and with their meaning extended - sometimes even to absurdity. Michael Brown does a great job to show and refute this.

However, this book is not just a rant against some preachers he doesn't agree with. It is rather a well-balanced book. Brown admits that much of what HC teachers teach is actually true, but the problem is where they deviate and exaggerate. If it's true, Brown gives them the due credit. This way, he's being fair to the proponents of the teaching he opposes. Arguments are never ad hominem, but always to the point. Although HC teachers also teach truth, of course the problem is not where they are right, but where they are wrong. And the danger is in the mixture of both.

Finally, I consider this a valuable book and recommend it to everyone who has been exposed to HC theology. It's good antidote.

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