
Giving Grace

By [Cori Wittman](#)

Grace. A simple word, but enormously complex. It's a word that's used liberally – we sing of it, we say it around the dinner table. But do we *practice* it with the same intentionality that we speak of it?

Grace defined is undeserved favor. We know it when we see it; when we royally mess up and are met with a kind, forgiving eye rather than the daggers we deserve. I've had my share of those moments. Like the time as a kid I left the trap door open in the grain cart and dumped a wagonload of canola on the ground. Whoops. Instead of a shame-inducing lecture, dad simply took me to get the tractor and started helping me clean it up. Instead of humiliation, I received *help* to make it right. That, to me, is the definition of grace.

We've all likely found ourselves in similar scenarios where we needed an extra measure of grace. Maybe we received it; maybe we didn't. Either response will leave an impression. One will drive us toward a repentant boldness and desire to improve, one leaves us thinking there's something inherently wrong with us.

So when a kid breaks that special family heirloom. When a family business partner disappoints us. When an exhausted employee gets the instructions wrong (again). When a supervisor shows a little too much of his or her humanity. How do we respond? Do we let our frustrated, unmet expectations cloud our vision and our response? Or do we believe the best in them and spur them on toward something greater?

On our farm in the Northwest, I know I've needed an extra measure of grace during this year's never-ending harvest. How many of you can relate?

Let's be generous givers of grace, as much as we are grateful recipients of it.