

1 Corinthians 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Analysis

Grace be unto you, and peace (charis hymin kai eirene, *χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη*)—Paul's standard greeting merges Greek (charis, grace) and Hebrew (shalom, peace) cultural forms into a distinctly Christian benediction. Charis (*χάρις*) is God's unmerited favor—the foundation of all Christian life and the antidote to the pride and factionalism plaguing Corinth. Eirene (*εἰρήνη*, peace) is not mere absence of conflict but wholeness, reconciliation, and right relationship—precisely what the divided Corinthians lack.

From God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ—Both grace and peace originate in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, whom Paul names in the same breath, implying equal divine status. This is no trivial greeting but a theological statement: all spiritual blessings flow from the Godhead, not from human wisdom or charismatic leaders.

Historical Context

This greeting formula appears in all Paul's letters and reflects early Christian liturgical language. In a city obsessed with status, patron-client relationships, and honor competitions, Paul redefines blessing as coming exclusively from God, not from human benefactors or philosophical schools. The coupling of Father and Son in one phrase was already Christian shorthand for Trinitarian theology.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing grace as "unmerited favor" undercut the pride and competitiveness that fueled Corinthian factions?
2. In what ways do we seek peace through human means rather than receiving it from God?
3. What does Paul's equal naming of Father and Son teach us about the deity of Christ and the nature of the Godhead?

Interlinear Text

χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν καὶ

Grace be unto you and peace from God Father our and

G5485 G5213 G2532 G1515 G575 G2316 G3962 G2257 G2532

κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

from the Lord Jesus Christ

G2962 G2424 G5547

Additional Cross-References

Romans 1:7 (Grace): To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:2 (Grace): Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2 (Grace): Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:2 (Grace): Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org