

But God

Martin Luther's new understanding

“The All Terrible is the All Merciful
too. Wrath and love fuse upon the
cross.”

(Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand*, p. 63).

Martin Luther's new understanding

Luther learned that God “is still a
consuming fire, but he burns that
he may purge and chasten and
heal.”

**Ephesians 2:4-5
Message**

In response to our desperate situation, mercy, love and grace moved God to give us new life.

- **Cultivate a deeper love for Him**
- **Believe the Gospel and experience His love**

Our individual status has changed (Eph 2:1-10)

By our walk, we proved that we were spiritually dead (1-3)

God gives new life (4-7)

God gives new life (Eph 2:4-7)

- I. In mercy God was concerned about our desperate need for salvation (4a).
- II. In love God was committed to act for our salvation (4b).
- III. In grace God caused our salvation to be accomplished (5).

“Mercy”



- The Greek word translates the Hebrew hesed over 200 times
 - Lovingkindness
 - Steadfast love
 - Covenant love
- (Ex 34:6; Ps 103:8; Jonah 4:2; Mic 7:18)

“Mercy”



- More than emotion
- Compassion moved to action
- Relieves misery and provides real help
- In the NT, God’s mercy shows compassion for people suffering hardship

“Love” (*Agapé*)



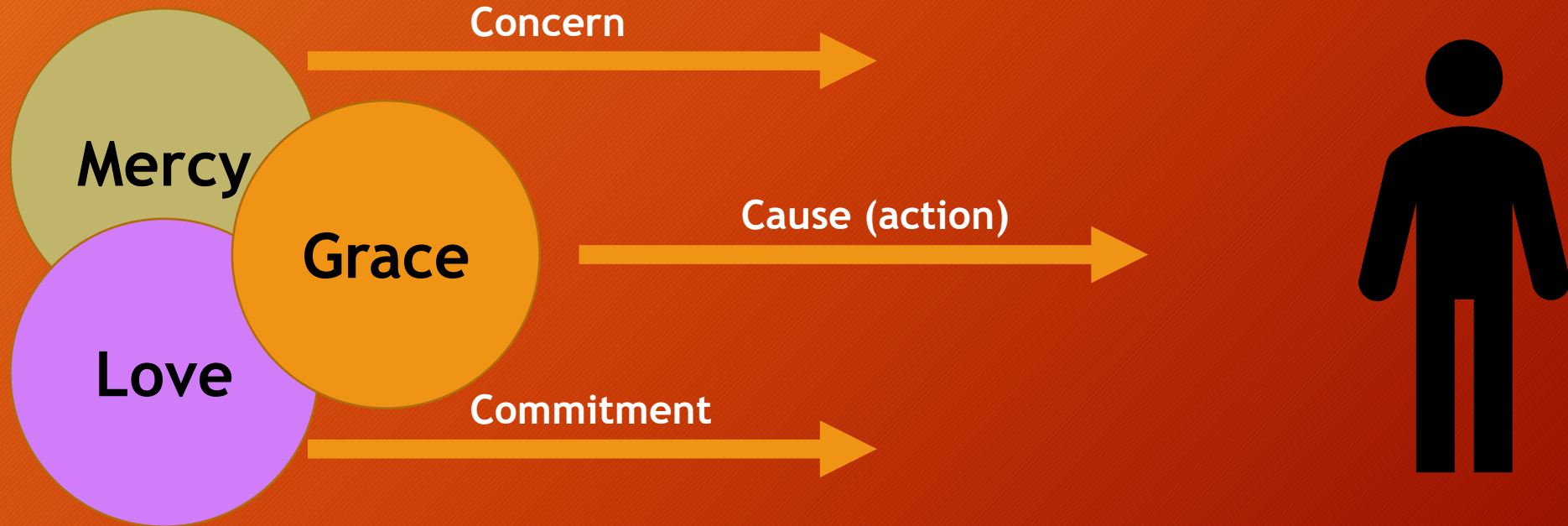
- It deliberately chooses to act as a free choice.
- It arises from the love that resides inside. (It can love the unworthy)
- It seeks the highest good of the other person (give, serve).

“Grace”



- God’s undeserved favor shown to sinners
- Caused us to be brought to life
- Carries out the commitment that love made
- Resolves mercy’s concern for our sad estate
- Grace is God’s power in action

God's saving character



Hymn by Martin Luther

Then was the Father troubled sore
To see me ever languish.
The Everlasting Pity swore
To save me from my anguish.
He turned to me his father heart
And chose himself a bitter part,
His Dearest did it cost him.

(quoted in Roland Bainton, *Here I Stand*, p. 66).