

A man with glasses and a red polo shirt is speaking at a podium. A large white speech bubble graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'table talk' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The background is dark with some blue lighting.

# table talk

4/19/26

## *“My Life Quote”*

I have an awesome collection of quotes. Some are really funny, some are profoundly serious, and some are really silly. Most are truly thought-provoking, but only a precious few I have found to be life-changing.

One of the most meaningful quotes on my list is by Phillip Yancey in his book *What’s So Amazing About Grace?*

**“There is nothing we can do to make Him love us more, and there is nothing we can do to make Him love us less.”**

Yancey has written and said these words in various settings and contexts. A fuller version I heard is as follows: “Grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us more... And grace means there is nothing we can do to make God love us less... Grace means that God already loves us as much as an infinite God can possibly love.”

My pastor, Luther Stephenson, taught this concept of God’s love back in the 1960s when I was just a little kid learning to follow Jesus. It would be decades before Yancey put the words to such a beautiful, powerful form. His words have indeed become something of a mantra to the “Loved Ones” of Christian Life.

My pastor’s version of the quote settled something in my mind that threatened to shipwreck my soul. Sadly and unnecessarily, I have struggled my entire life with approval and self-esteem. I don’t really understand why. I certainly had a great, supportive family network and a solid Bible-based church, but I suppose many of us have been raised in

the mindset of spiritual legalism. No matter how much good I did, I felt I should have done better. And more.

Brother Stephenson lovingly and patiently took time to help me understand the issue of our security in Jesus. Maybe I was a slow learner, but the truths he taught me - all of them growing out of the idea Yancey encapsulates in his version - really set my soul free!

“God loves me just as I am, but He loves me too much to leave me as I am. So His eternal love links to my eternal soul for an eternal project - and He will never let go!”

**As you journey with Christ, remember this. If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, then He has promised to complete the work of salvation He has begun in you. Nothing or nobody can take you out of His mighty hand. Jude said He is able to KEEP you and to present you FAULTLESS before God our Father.**

The love of God saves you, and the love of God keeps you saved!

I love you,  
**Pastor Stephen**