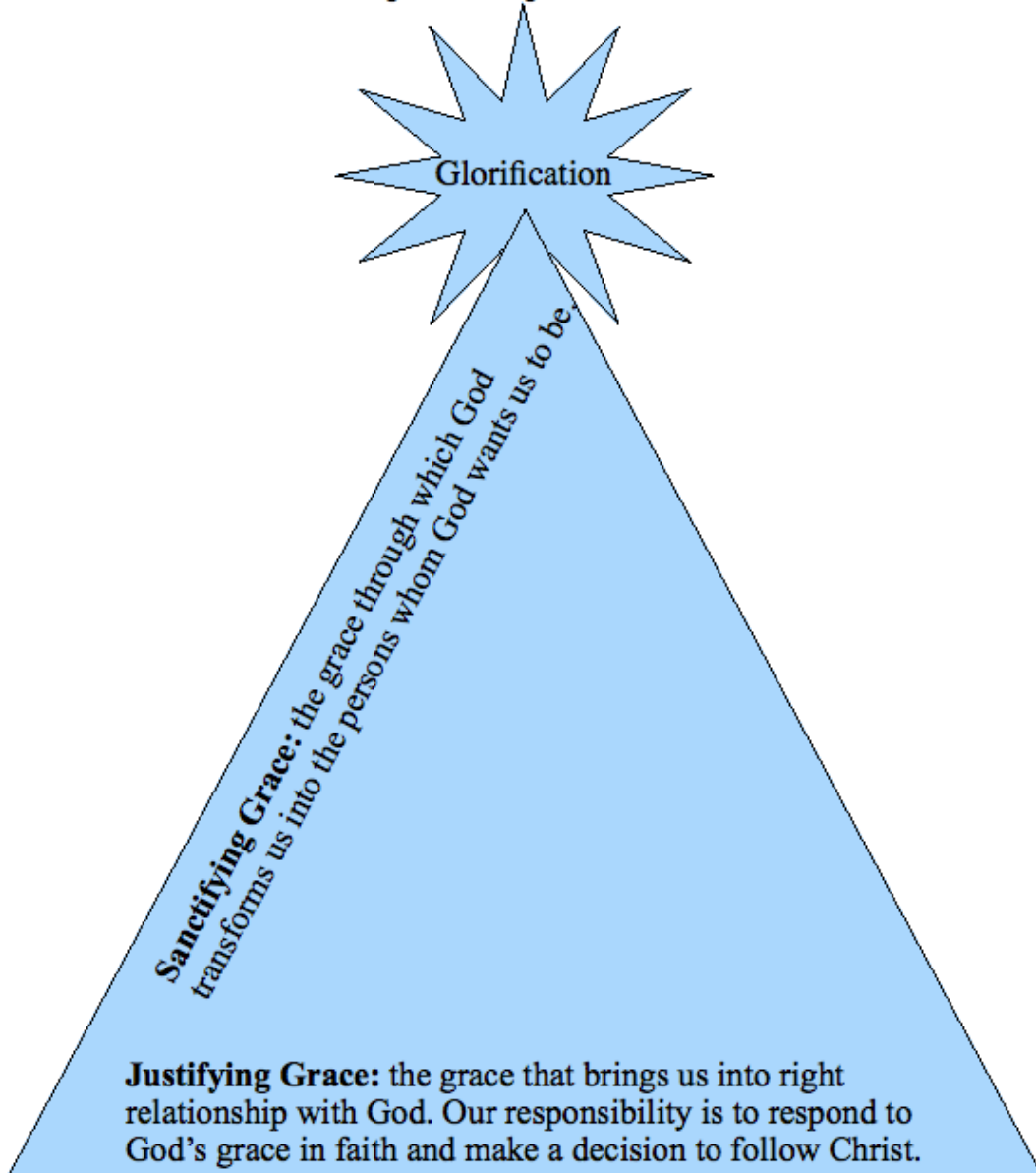


The Wesleyan Pyramid of Grace



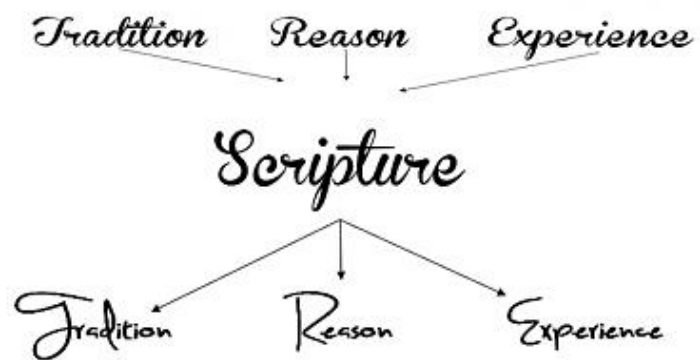
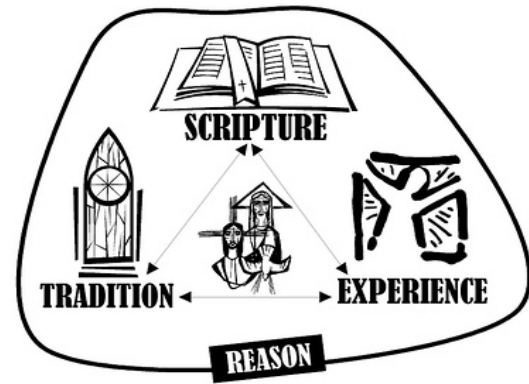
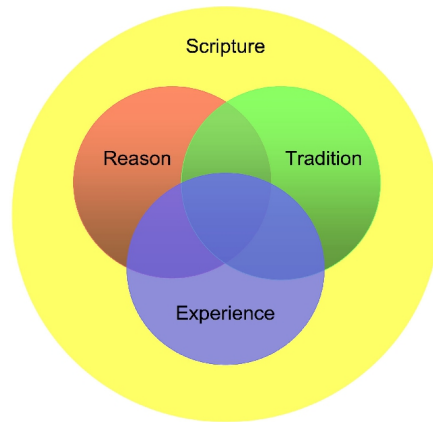
Prevenient Grace: the grace of God that is present in our lives before we are aware of it. God constantly seeks us through other people, through our experiences, and through our consciences.

Grace = un-earned mercy; infinite divine acceptance

These understandings of grace do not exist in isolation. Together, they form a way of seeing and experiencing the Christian life as an ongoing, dynamic process. John Wesley used the metaphor of the house to explain this concept. He saw prevenient grace as the porch of the house, an entryway, that invites us to come further. Justifying grace is the door into the house. We must open it and come inside if we truly are to experience and know the whole house. Sanctifying grace is learning to live in and grow in the whole house.

- "Teaching Grace in Christian Education" from Cokesbury
<http://archives.umc.org/interior.asp?ptid=1&mid=5243>

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral



“[The] living core [of Christian truth] ... stands revealed in Scripture, illumined by tradition, vivified in personal and corporate experience, and confirmed by reason. [Methodists] were very much aware, of course, that God’s eternal Word never has been, nor can be, exhaustively expressed in any single form of words.”

- *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*

“The 'Wesleyan quadrilateral' represents a shorthand reference to John Wesley’s understanding of religious authority, affirming the interdependent relationship between [the importance] of scriptural authority along with the secondary—albeit genuine—religious authority of tradition, reason and experience. The Wesleyan quadrilateral is a ... model of how Wesley [thought about God].”

“Although Christians make decisions in a variety of ways, the Wesleyan quadrilateral represents a helpful model for [making] decisions in relationship to scripture, ... church tradition, critical thinking, and relevant experience. The Wesleyan quadrilateral is considered a realistic description of how Christians make theological decisions, since they are not always aware of [how they make those decisions].”

- Modified from Dr. Don Thorsen, “What Is the Wesleyan Quadrilateral?”