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Dimensions of Grace

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Dimensions of Grace *CAPS, 2015*

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IV. Psychology of Grace



- Whenever we attempt to investigate something scientifically, we need a way to measure it:
 - tape measures or calipers,
 - beakers or gram scales
- So it is with grace: we need a measure.

IV. Psychology of Grace

We need a measure.

- In psychology we measure lots of things:
 - Intelligence,
 - Personality,
 - Psychopathology, etc.
- Some remain challenging and controversial even after years or decades of research.
- Grace poses similar difficulties



IV. Psychology of Grace

- At present we know of three grace measures —make that four.
 1. Grace Scale (Payton, Spradlin, & Bufford, 2000; Spradlin, 2002)
 2. Richmond Grace Scale (Sizemore et al, 2010)
 3. TAGS-The Amazing Grace Scale (Bassett et al, 2013)
 4. GRACE (Sells, Beckenbach, & Patrick, 2009)

IV. Psychology of Grace

- Do they measure the same thing?
- Can we make a better measure?



Study 1 Participants (N =152)

– Gender

- 110 Female (73%)
- 41 Male (27%)

– Race

- 126 Caucasian (83%)
- 17 African-American (11%)
- Other 4 (2.6%)
- No response 5 (3.4%)

■ Religion

- 126 Christian (88%)
- 6 No religion (4%)
- 3 Agnostic (2%)
- 2 Other (1.4%)

■ Dawkins Atheism

- 94 (62%) “I know God exists”
- 38 (25%) “I strongly believe God exists”
- 17 (12%) other

Study 1 Materials

Demographic Questionnaire

Grace Measures

- **Grace Scale (GS)** (Payton, Spradlin, & Bufford, 2000; Spradlin, 2002).
- **The Richmond Grace Scale (RGS)** (Blackburn, Sisemore, Smith, & Re, 2012; Sisemore, et al 2011; Watson, Chen & Sisemore, 2011).
- **The Amazing Grace Scale (TAGS)** (Bassett, Felinski, et al, 2012).

Study 1 Materials

- **Spiritual Well-Being Scale (SWB)** (Ellison, 1982; Paloutzian & Ellison, 1981; Paloutzian, Bufford, & Wildman, 2012)..
- **Gratitude Questionnaire-6 (GQ-6)**. (McCullough, Emmons, & Tsang, 2002)
- **Brief R-COPE**. (Pargament, Koenig, & Perez, 2000; Pargament, Feuille, & Burdzy, 2011)
- **Internalized Shame Scale (ISS)**. (Cook, 1987)
- **ACORN Scale**. (Minami, Brown, McCulloch, & Bolstrom, 2010)
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale (ACES)**. (Felittit, Anda et al, 1998).

Study 1 Results:

Do They Measure the Same Thing?

Gender

- No gender differences were found for any of the grace measures.

Ethnicity

- No differences related to ethnic background were found for any of the grace measures.

Religious Affiliation

- Significant main effects were found for all three grace measures on the single demographic item on **religious affiliation**

Study 1 Results:

Do They Measure the Same Thing?

Religious Profession

- Significant main effects were found for all three grace measures on the single demographic item of **Christian profession**
 - GS ($F_{3, 125} = 10.59; p < .001$)
 - RGS ($F_{3, 133} = 18.40; p < .001$)
 - TAGS ($F_{3, 134} = 52.61; p < .001$)
- **Those who professed to be Christian scored higher on all grace measures**

Study 1 Results:

Do They Measure the Same Thing?

Dawkins Atheism Scale

- Significant main effects were found for all three grace measures
- GS ($F_{2, 134} = 14.32; p < .001$)
- RGS ($F_{2, 134} = 12.70; p < .001$)
- TAGS ($F_{2, 134} = 52.61; p < .001$)
- **Those with belief in God scored higher on all grace measures**

Study 1 Results:

Table 1

Descriptive Results and Internal Consistency for Research Measures

<u>Scale</u>	<u>Alpha</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>Skew</u>	<u>Kurtosis</u>
Grace Scale (40 items)	.73	182.89	19.64	-.28	-.60
RGS (15 items)	.93	149.04	25.63	-.73	-.16
TAGS(27 items)	.97	82.36	19.56	-1.12	1.03

Study 1 Results:

Table 2

Correlations of Grace Measures with Each Other

<u>Measure</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>RGS</u>
Richmont Grace Scale	.66**	
<u>The Amazing Grace Scale</u>	<u>.55**</u>	<u>.65**</u>

Note N ranged from 129 to 144.

Here they seem to measure
somewhat the same things.

[In study 2 correlations were .69**, .69**, and .68**]

Table 2

Correlations of Grace Measures with Other Scales

<u>Measure</u>	<u>GS</u>	<u>RGS</u>	<u>TAGS</u>
RWB	.57**	.65**	.79**
EWB	.55**	.48**	.44**
SWB	.65**	.68**	.77**
Gratitude-6	.38**	.42**	.38**
<u>R-COPE Positive</u>	.45**	.60**	.80**
R-COPE Negative	-.37**	-.32**	-.09
Internalized Shame	-.56**	-.32**	-.14
ACE	-.24**	.17	-.04
<u>ACORN</u>	-.37**	-.09	-.10

Note N ranged from 129 to 144.

Here not so much the same . . .

IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2

A technical challenge: factor analysis

- Correlation considers two measures or variables
- Factor Analysis considers many items at once—here 83 items

- Put simplistically, there are three dimensions:
 - How many clusters of items do we get
 - How many items are included in each cluster
 - How strongly are the items related to each other within a cluster



Study 2 Participants (N = 519)

– Gender

- 364 Female (70.1%)
- 151 Male (29.1%)

– Race

- 427 Caucasian (82.3%)
- 46 African-American (8.9%)
- Asian 24 (4.6%)
- Hispanic 26 (5.0%)
- Native American 8 (1.5%)
- No response 4 (0.8%)

▪ Religion

- 466 Christian (89.8%)
- 13 Agnostic (2.5%)
- 2 Atheist (0.4%)
- 2 Islamic (0.4%)
- 1 Hindu (0.2%)

Study 2 Materials

Demographic Questionnaire

Grace Measures

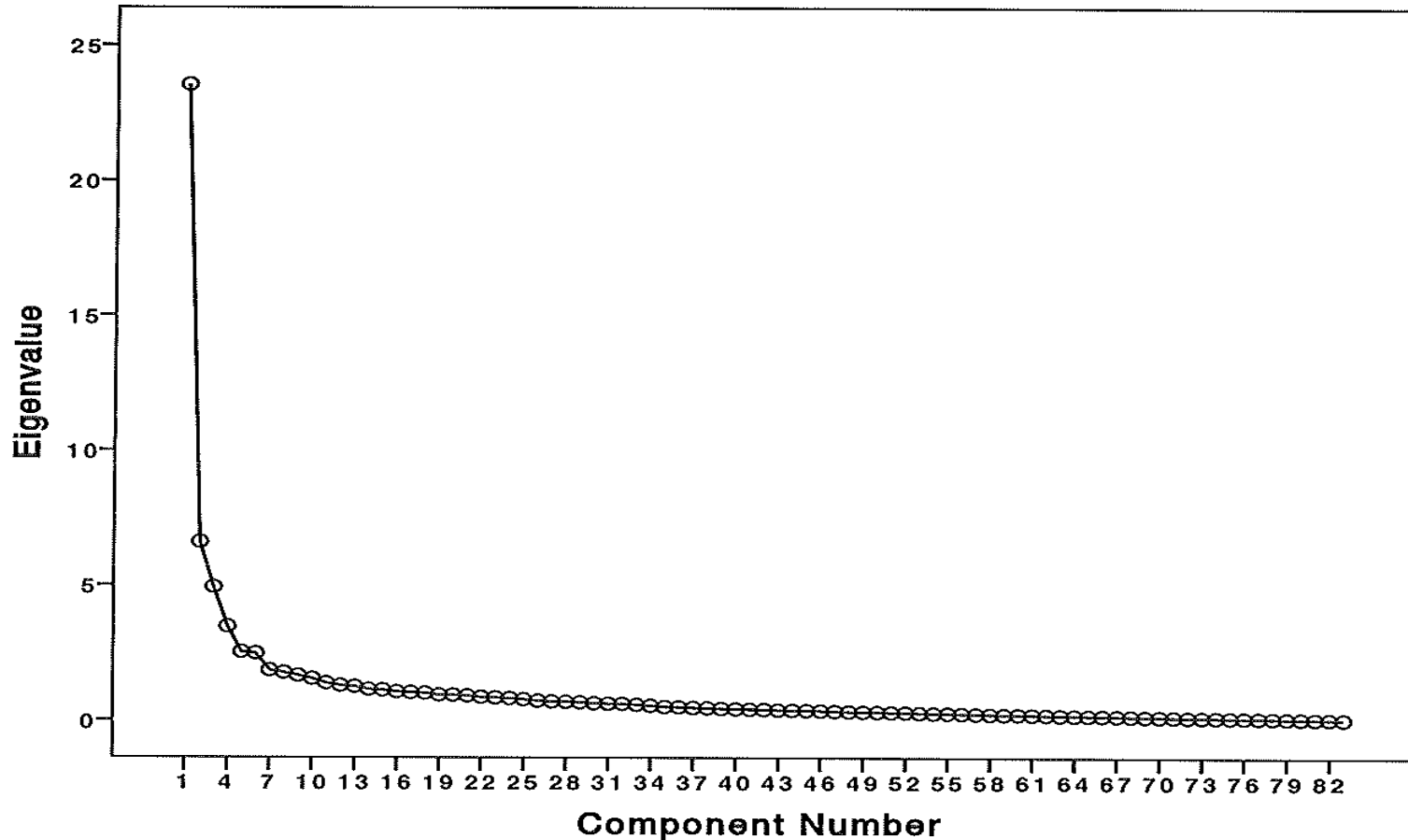
- **Grace Scale (GS)** (Payton, Spradlin, & Bufford, 2000; Spradlin, 2002)
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- **The Amazing Grace Scale (TAGS)** (Bassett, Felinski, et al, 2012)

Study 2 Materials

- **Spiritual Well-Being Scale (SWB)** (Ellison, 1982; Paloutzian & Ellison, 1981; Paloutzian, Bufford, & Wildman, 2012)..
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IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2 Factor Results

Scree Plot

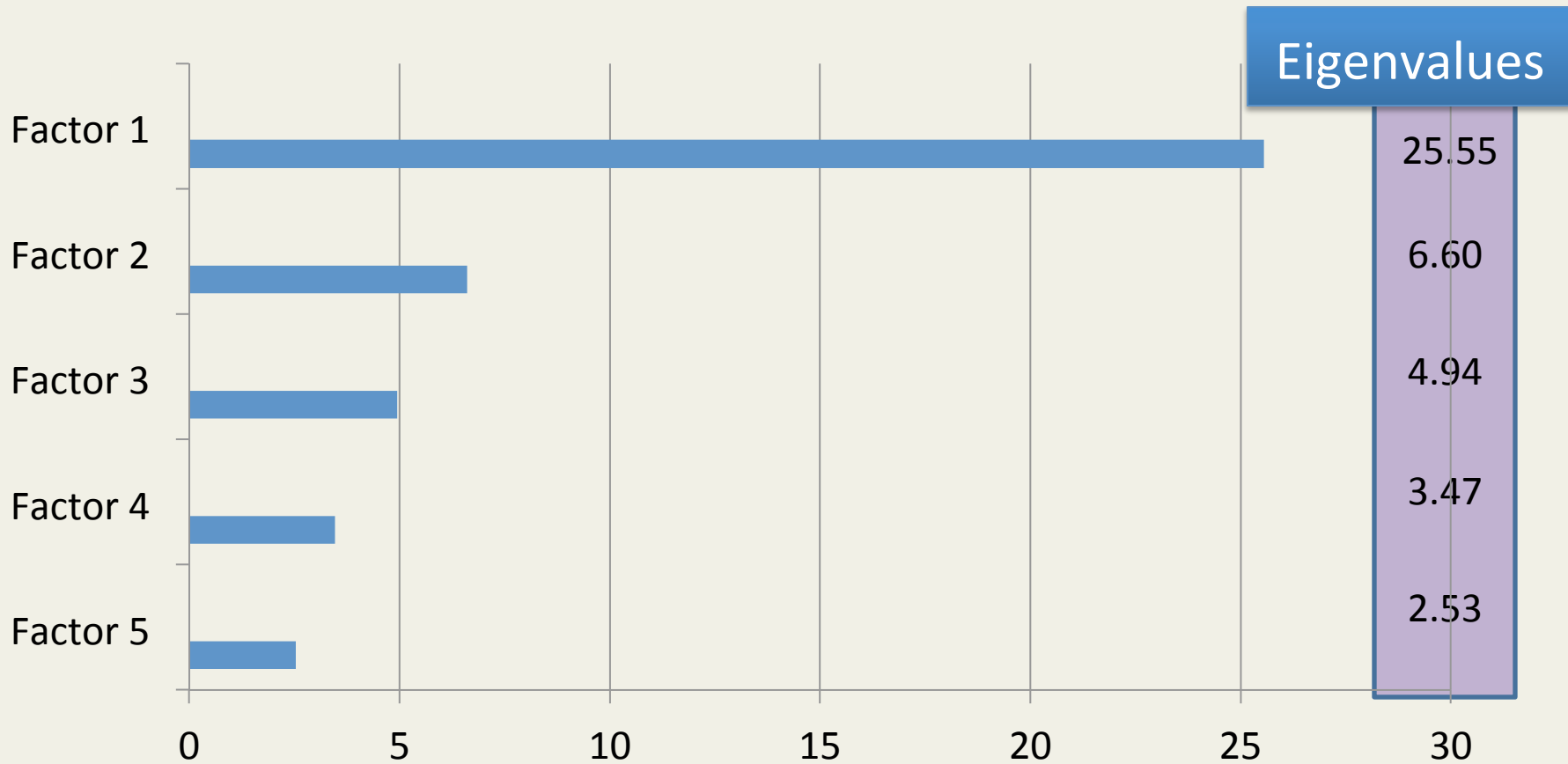


IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2 Factor Results

Oblimin rotation—correlated factors

- Forced 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 factor solutions suggested that the 5 factor solution was best
- It loaded the most items cleanly on a single factor.
- Very strong first factor
- Modestly strong additional factors

IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2 Factor Results



IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2 Factor Results

So five factors

1. Experiencing God's grace—27 items
2. Costly grace—12 items
3. Grace to self— 7 items
4. Grace from others—8 items
5. Grace to others—9 items

IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2

<u>Scale</u>	<u>Alpha</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>Skew</u>	<u>Kurtosis</u>
F-1 Experiencing God's Grace	.98	5.60	1.12	-1.27	1.65
F-2 Costly Grace	.94	5.87	1.15	-1.28	1.45
F-3 Grace to Self	.76	3.20	0.95	0.11	-0.21
F-4 Grace from Others	.84	5.32	1.29	-0.66	-0.34
F-5 Grace to Others	.71	4.42	1.00	-0.07	-0.43

IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2

Grace Factor Correlations

Measure	F-1	F-2	F-3	F-4
F-1 Experiencing God's Grace				
F-2 Costly Grace	.47**	.		
F-3 Grace to Self	.09	.07		
F-4 Grace from others	.24**	.27**	.05	
F-5 Grace to Others	.38**	.49**	.08	.23**

IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2

Grace Factor Correlations with other Measures

Measure	F-1	F-2	F-3	F-4	F-5
Spiritual Well-Being	.63**	.40**	.25**	.24**	.35**
Gratitude 6	.41**	.36**	.05	.25**	.26**
R-COPE Positive	.78**	.39**	-.01	.17**	.30**
R-COPE Negative	-.08	-.32**	-.21**	-.20**	-.32**
Internalized Shame	-.20**	-.21**	-.54**	-.39**	-.27**
ACORN	-.13**	.03	-.43**	-.20**	-.17**
Adverse Childhood Exper	-.05	.14**	-.18**	-.39**	.04

IV. Psychology of Grace: Discussion

Next steps

- Concerns
 - Skew
 - Kurtosis
 - Number of items: 83 is way too many
- Selection of items for proposed new scale
 - Minimize skew
 - Minimize kurtosis
 - Limit number of items

IV. Psychology of Grace: Study 2

Proposed 36-item *Dimensions of Grace Scale*

- Experiencing God's grace—8 items
- Costly grace—7 items
- Grace to self— 7 items
- Grace from others—7 items
- Grace to others—7 items

<u>Items</u>	
+	-
8	0
0	7
3	4
1	6
1	6
5	23

IV. Psychology of Grace: Item Examples

F-1 Experiencing God's Grace

God is in the process of making me more like Jesus

F-2 Costly Grace

*The harder I work, the more I earn God's favor.

F-3 Grace to Self

*I tend to be hard on myself.

IV. Psychology of Grace: Item Examples

F-4 Grace from Others

As a child I was confident that at least one of my parents loved me no matter what.

F-5 Grace to Others

*I need to see remorse before I offer forgiveness.

IV. Psychology of Grace: Discussion

What are our current concerns and limitations of the measure?

- What's missing: have we adequately grasped grace?
- Yay and naysaying
- Re-visit factors: both positive and negative loadings
- Generality 1: similar participants
- Generality 2: different participants—Asians, Bosnians, children, elderly, less educated, poor, etc.

IV. Psychology of Grace: Discussion

What about other considerations?

- What fosters the experience and enactment of human grace?
- What inhibits the experience and enactment of human grace?
- What are the results of experiencing grace?
 - Gratitude? –there is much more psychological research
 - Praise?
 - Enhanced well-being?

IV. Psychology of Grace: Conclusion

We now have a new measure so we can further study grace

- A 36-item *Dimensions of Grace Scale* that seeks to measure 5 dimensions.
- Adequate to good internal consistency
- Preliminary support for validity
- Five additional studies are under way using this new measure

We also have questions:

How good is the measure?

Can it be further improved?

What can we learn about grace from it?

Questions & Audience Discussion



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