

TOTAL GRACE: "Highly Gifted People"

INTRODUCTION: Total Grace!

- ✓ As Christians we have received grace upon grace!
John 1:16/ 2 Corinthians 9:8/1 Corinthians 15:10

"Grace is a blanket that covers our entire lives"

- ✓ As Christians we have been given servicing grace.
Romans 12:1-8

THE ARGUMENT (Romans 12:1-2)

- ✓ If we give ourselves to the LORD, we will give ourselves to the CHURCH.

- ✓ The problem with living sacrifices is they want to crawl off the altar!

"This bed is the altar and I am the sacrifice".

- ✓ Don't be squeezed into the world's thinking (v.2). Instead, renew your mind according to God's mercy.
- ✓ **Mercies** – plural! (justification, propitiation, reconciliation, sanctification, future glory).
- ✓ In light of God's mercy, we render "reasonable service".

THE ASSESSMENT (Romans 12:3)

- ✓ Have a sober judgment of your capability to serve the LORD and serve the church.

- ✓ It is not wrong to have a clear understanding of your giftedness!

Overestimation = pride

Underestimation = false humility.

- ✓ Don't be a spiritual copycat! Concentrate on your own giftedness

THE ASSIGNMENT (Romans 12:4-8)

- ✓ **Everyone** has an ability to serve the LORD.
1 Corinthians 12:11

- ✓ Spiritual gifts have been given to us for the benefit of the church.

Unity (v.4-5) – No spare parts in the body of Christ!

Diversity (v.6-8) – prophecy, service, teaching, giving, mercy. Not an exhaustive list.

Mutuality (v.5) – We are dependent on one another. "We have a right to each other's giftedness"

Shepherd Group Study Questions

October 28, 2018

REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1 What do you think about the subject of spiritual gifts? Why might this subject seem confusing or difficult for people to understand?

2 Pastor Philip made the statement that overestimating our giftedness can lead to **pride**, and underestimating our giftedness can lead to **false humility**.

Which do you think is more tempting for a believer?

Have you ever been tempted to either of these two extremes?

DIGGING DEEPER

1 The New Testament speaks about spiritual gifts and the many ways believers are empowered to serve the church. How do the following passages help us understand what spiritual gifts are and how they can be used to bless others?

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

[4] Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. [7] To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. [11] All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

1 Peter 4:10-11 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

[10] As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: [11] whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:7 *English Standard Version (ESV)*

[7] But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

What makes a **“spiritual gift”** truly “spiritual” as opposed to a natural ability?

Why are the terms **“each”** and **“each one”** in these passages so important?

2

Jesus told a parable in **Matthew 25:14-30** about a master who gave his servants a different number of talents.

What do we learn about **our responsibility** from this passage?

What might be some **hindrances** to fulfilling this responsibility?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Looking back at the sermon, are there any goals you'd like to work on in the next few days/weeks that could help you grow in the three areas below?

- *Being motivated by the mercies of God:*

- *Serving the Lord by serving the church:*

- *Identifying and using my spiritual gift:*

ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS

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