

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Application of Grace: In Ministry/Service**  
**Romans 12:4-21**

Last time...we began considering the application of grace in our lives

- presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice...not too much to ask, not impossible to do
- being not conformed to the world (the death and the darkness out of which we came) but being transformed by the renewing of our mind (the mind of Christ, the Life and the Light into Whom we have been brought)
- thinking clearly with a sound mind, not thinking too highly of ourselves... sinners have nothing to boast of except the Lord Jesus Christ who cleansed us of our sin and removed them as far as the east is from the west

This time...the application of grace in our lives continues  
In how we minister to/serve the Lord and others

We are still in Rom 12

v4-5 As mentioned last week regarding v3,  
This is said to every believer, so I am not special or unique...not better than anyone!  
None of us are special or unique or better than anyone...we are equal in God's eyes  
But we are all different

Just as we have but one body made up of many different parts, all doing different "designed" things for the good of the whole body,  
so are we as followers of Jesus Christ in one Body, all different doing different assigned things for the good of the whole Body, the Body of Christ

The Body/Church/Bride *is* not for fornication (self-serving for self-pleasure), but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. (1 Cor 6:13)

After all, the Lord purchased us with His blood; we are not our own  
(Acts 20:28, 1 Cor 16:19-20)

Now, we are one with the Father and the Son (John 17:21)

And this one-ness with the Father and Son, by the grace of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit of God/Christ,  
is the very reason we

- present our individual bodies as a living sacrifice
  - are not conformed to the world but are transformed by the renewing of our mind
  - do not thinking too highly of ourselves (Is 64:6, Rom 7:18)
- and is the very heart-set and mind-set with which we apply grace in our lives

We're all different, but we all serve with the same heart and mind – God's

v6-8 We have different spiritual gifts (spiritual endowments from the Holy Spirit) with which we serve the Lord and others

Mine are different than yours and yours are different than mine...

- according to the gift of grace of God given to each of us,
- according to the measure of the gift of Christ (Eph 4:7)...the Head of the Body assigning and empowering the function of each Body part

These are some of the spiritual gifts given to the Body of Christ,  
as are those we discussed in 1 Cor 12-14 (Centerpiece: love)

If we have been given the spiritual gift of prophesy (proclaiming the Word of God),  
let's faithfully exercise that gift according to the share of faith (v3b) given us

If our gift is ministry (serving others)...

“waiter-on-tables” ala the 12 in John 6 and the chosen disciples in Acts 6...  
let's focus on and faithfully attend to the gift we have been given

If our gift is teaching (sharing with others what you have been given by The Teacher),  
let's be faithful to the sound doctrine of the Word of God and set aside the  
doctrines and traditions of men that make the Word of none effect

If our gift is exhortation (encouraging and edifying others),  
let's be faithful to encourage and edify as the Lord is faithful to encourage us

If our gift is giving (giving is a spiritual gift because Ps 24:1 and 1 Cor 4:2),  
let's be faithful to give with simplicity

- give without fanfare to bless, not give to get something in return
- Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

If our gift is to rule (have oversight responsibility in the Body, (an organism, not an organization), let's oversee others with diligence/earnestness/careful-ness

- Luke 22:26b he that is chief, (let him be) as he that does serve
- 1 Peter 5:1-3 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*,
  - a. not by constraint, but willingly;
  - b. not for filthy lucre (money), but of a ready mind;
  - c. Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

- 2 Cor 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.
- 2 Cor 10:8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

If our gift is mercy (compassionately helping others),  
let's help with cheerfulness

- not begrudgingly
- not out of obligation
- not out of "works" to earn or obligate the pleasure of God
- Matt 5:7...cheerfully given by the Lord, cheerfully given by us to others

Different spiritual gifts with which we serve the Lord and others

Different ministries/service unto the Lord and others

Begs 3 questions in our days

1. What is a "meaningful" ministry?

Is "meaningful" to God a function of numbers or faithfulness?

Is a lukewarm mega-church more meaningful than a faithful home church?

Impacting even just one life for Jesus Christ is meaningful!

Making even just one disciple is meaningful!

Even a gathering of 2 or 3 is meaningful!

2. Can a part of the Body exercise their gifts unto the Lord and others, to the glory of God and the benefit of the Body, by being on-line...  
or might they need to be in-person with the rest of the Body?

2 Tim 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God

3. Is it the ministry of the Church to restore the USA as a "Christian nation"?

Spreading across this nation is "Christian nationalism"

Is making the USA a Christian nation our calling/ministry?

No!

It is true that

- a. "Gov't by the people and for the people" is now just a platitude (so trite and so empty) and no longer a reality
- b. Gov't is now for the ruling elite to serve themselves at the expense of the people

But "Christian nationalism" is a political movement

Politics is a filthy, corrupt, worldly business

Jesus Christ came not as a political leader...politics is NOT the calling/ministry of the Body of Christ  
Jesus was sent to accomplish a spiritual mission...the calling/ministry of the Body of Christ is spiritual

- a. Seeking and saving the lost...the Father's business...with the Gospel of Grace
- b. Making disciples/followers of Jesus Christ
- c. Citizens of the kingdom of God, not merely a nation of men
- d. Ambassadors of Christ, not political pawns of men
- e. Soldiers in a spiritual battle

Eph 6:12 we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

2 Cor 10:3-5 though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations (lots of that in politics!), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God (lots of that in politics!), and bringing into captivity every thought (an internal work) to the obedience of Christ;

“Christian nationalism” is a distraction from the work we have been called to do...a waste of valuable, fleeting time at a time when the fashion of this world is passing away

We are not called to save the USA, we are called/sent to shine our Lights before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven (Matt 5:16)

The Church and the individual believer that has embraced “Christian nationalism” has taken their eye off the ball and lost focus of God's calling/ministry

Because faith and grace does not change a society;  
they change individuals

Society is changed by God, King of all the earth, one individual at a time

So how do we impact/change lives around us where we have been planted?

In how we shine our Lights

In how we minister/serve others with the love and grace of God

v9     Let love be sincere, without hypocrisy  
         Not the love like I have for baseball, but the love that God has for us  
         Rom 5:8  
         Matt 22:36-40 and James 2:8            the Royal Law  
         1 John 4:11     Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one  
                                 another.  
         1 John 3:18     (love) in deed and in truth (not hypocrisy)

Abhor that which is evil  
         Detest all that is lewd, malicious, and hurtful to others

Cleave to that which is good  
         Glue yourself to that which is good...Godly, Christ-like  
         Matt 19:17  
         Ps 37:27           Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.

Then, being “glued to God”...

v10    Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love  
         The Lord has put the solitary (individuals) in families (Ps 68:6)  
  
         Cherish your family...parents, children, grand-children, relatives  
                 It takes grace!  
         Cherish the Family of God...all the brethren  
                 It takes grace!  
         2 Peter 3:18     the more you know about...the more you know about

In honor, preferring one another  
         Relationships not characterized by criticism or scorn or sniping or disrespect  
         But relationships characterized by praise and respect and dignity  
                 It takes grace!  
         And a mind and heart living the Royal Law...all others before Self

Ex. Monica toward me – I want to sing her praises to you  
         She is blessed with a very demanding FT job – raising Eloise Mon-Fri  
         It takes all of her physical strength to keep up with and guide Eloise  
         She needs a restful night's sleep every night to take on the next day  
         She does not get that many times...because of me

I no longer snore (PTL!) but I still thrash and yell, and act out dreams  
         Sitting up and on the edge of the bed  
                 “What are you doing? Where are you going? Wake up!”  
         Rolling out of bed onto the floor (mattresses)  
                 “Are you Ok? Wake up! Get back in bed.”

My sleeping behavior disturbs her sleep so she does not get a restful,  
refreshing sleep  
Solution: I sleep in another bed in another room so she gets the kind of  
sleep she needs  
Good for her, not good for me  
She cherishes me, with all my issues and flaws  
To her detriment, she sets aside herself for my good, preferring me

v11 Not slothful in business

Not lazy or tardy or disinterested in the Father's business  
Not lazy or tardy or undependable or "just skating by" at your work  
Rather, be the best employee/manager your company/boss has!  
It takes grace and the Royal Law!

Fervent in spirit

"Boiling" with the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit  
On fire for the Lord wherever you are  
Being Spirit-filled and Spirit-led

Serving the Lord

1 Cor 7:22-23 For he that is called in the Lord, *being* a servant, is the Lord's  
freeman: likewise also he that is called, *being* free, is Christ's  
servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.  
Col 3:23-24 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto  
men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the  
inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

v12 Rejoicing in hope

How, in a world gone mad and without hope?  
In politics that has no answers, therefore no hope?  
Rejoicing in Jesus Christ, our ONLY hope!

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation (Rom 1-11) hath  
appeared to all men (Jesus Christ), Teaching us that, denying  
ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously,  
and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope,  
and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus  
Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all  
iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good  
works.

Patient in tribulation

Cheerfully enduring and persevering in the trials/tribulations in this world

Losing an A/C unit in Phoenix in August

Why does anyone live in Phoenix?

This is where the horses died

Why do 3 million people now live in the greater Phoenix area?

A/C

James 1:2-5 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Patient...without whining or complaining or murmuring

Stopping, turning to the left or the right, or turning back because of some circumstance in your life shaking your confidence in the power and grace of God

No worries – He is there...leading you thru it for His glory and your good

So draw near and stay near the Lord!

Continuing instant in prayer

Diligently attending to an on-going conversation with our loving Father and Lord...talking and listening

- Worship/adoration
- Intercession for others
- Pouring out your heart – devotion, cries for help, whatever

Luke 18:1 men ought always to pray, and not to faint

Required: Discerning the small still voice of God

v13 Distributing to the necessity of the saints

Sharing that which the Lord has blessed you with brethren who are in need

Gal 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

This speaks of material needs and God's loving way of meeting all our needs

2 Cor 8:14-15 But by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may be a supply* for their want, that their abundance also may be *a supply* for your want: that there may be equality: As it is written, He that *had gathered* much had nothing over; and he that *had gathered* little had no lack.

Phil 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Given to hospitality

Pursue, follow after, hosting others in your home, having an “open house”  
Open home, open heart

v14 Bless them which persecute you, bless and curse not

Matt 5:44-45a Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.

Luke 23:34 Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

It takes grace and the Royal Law!

v15 Rejoice with them that rejoice and weep with them that weep

As children of the same Father in the same Family,

Be a cheerleader of other's blessings, not a Debbie Downer

Be happy when the Lord blesses someone, not envious/covetous/selfish

You will want others to rejoice with you!

Have empathy and compassion for the hurting

You will want empathy and compassion when you are hurting

2 Cor 1:3-4 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Our son has applied for a job in SoCal...a very good job

If he gets it, we will rejoice with him...and then he can weep with us!

And vice versa!

Rather than selfishly

- comparing and competing with others
- looking for an advantage over someone else

we are to deny Self and sincerely, lovingly join others as they rejoice or weep

Is Jesus rejoicing with the blessed and weeping with the hurting?

Is the Father?

Is the Holy Spirit?



So therefore should we...by denying Self and being gracious and loving  
1 Cor 12:25-26 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it.

v16 Be of the same mind one toward another

Be not divided, be not divisive...unity in the Body of Christ

1 Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Rom 15:5

Rom 16:17-18

Mind not high things but condescend to men of low estate

Do not set your affections on high things...of this world

Col 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

but humble yourself to serve the down cast and humbled

Love the unlovely...for God loves you!!!

2 Cor 7:6 God, that comforteth those that are cast down

2 Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Is “the Good Life” better defined by the world (stuff) or by the Lord (people)?

Care about souls that are eternal more than the things of this world that stay in this world and eventually burn up!

Be not wise in your own conceits

Do not be self-righteous

Humble yourself before God and man always

If you want to boast, boast in the Lord!

v18 Live peaceably with all men

Where does the problem lie in, “If it be **not** possible”?

- In the other person’s heart
- In a bitterness in our own heart...a failure of grace

Work for peace, work against discord and strife

Prove the sincerity of your love (v9, 1 Cor 8:8)

Let the peace of God rule in your heart (Col 3:15)

Relationships take two willing volunteers of the same heart and mind  
We can only do what we can do, which we can only do if we deny ourselves and submit to the will of our Father and Lord

Mark 9:49-50 *For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice (from sinful man) shall be salted with salt (grace from God). Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves (Rom 12:1), and have peace one with another.*

Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

Our part in every relationship: the grace and self-less love of God

v19-20 God has drawn us...sinners all...by the unsearchable riches of His love and grace  
His love and grace have radically changed us; receiving them by faith we have been

- made new creatures in Christ
- made the righteousness of God in Christ

He is calling us to freely share what we have freely been given (Matt 10:8b)

Our ministry/service to Him and others, therefore, quite simply, is love and grace  
Nothing more, nothing less...love and grace are everything!  
It is not too much to ask and not impossible to give...it is our reasonable service

Therefore, “getting even” with those who have wronged or offended us is NOT given to us

Vindication is not our ministry, reconciliation is (2 Cor 5:18)

Judgment and justice are not ours to administer; grace, mercy, and love are

So we need to set aside our wrath and leave the business of vindication to the Lord

Prov 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

James 1:19-20 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Heaping coals of fire on an enemies head is a...blessing, not a curse  
He has fire to take with him to comfort him tonight

Here the Apostle Paul quotes Prov 25:21-22a

Prov 25:22b and the LORD shall reward thee.

As Jesus taught (Matt 5:38-42), our ministry is to

- not resist (oppose, political activism against) evil
- turn the other cheek
- let him have our cloke as well as your coat
- go the 2<sup>nd</sup> mile when compelled to go 1 mile
- give what is asked and do not deny the request

But rather...

v21 overcome evil with good...being Christ-like – gracious, loving, merciful  
Just as Christ did to us when we were His enemies (Eph 2:1-9)

We cannot “out evil” evil in order to overcome it; God will not so lead me  
We v9b, we do not respond in kind...for the Lord did not respond in kind to us!  
Rom 5:8  
Luke 23:34

We do overcome/subdue evil by responding as Jesus did/does; God will so lead me!  
1 John 4:4, 8

### **Application/Exhortation**

During the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot when 2 Tim 3:12-13 and 2 Peter 3:5a,

- minister to all others with the love and grace we have received
- err on the side of love and grace and let the Lord take it from there

Be faithful and true to who you are – a child of God, a functioning part of the Body of Christ  
serving at the direction of the Head of the Body

Ps 37:1-11