

As I've been working on the sermon this week, I've been thinking about how we balance, the ideas of good order and grace. As a community of faith, we know that we need rules and boundaries. Without them, life could seem arbitrary and chaotic. However, when we become too tightly locked into rules, they can actually become counterproductive. That's something we see in the second commandment when we told not to worship any man-made things as if they were gods. One of those things we are tempted to "worship" is our body of rules. They are extraordinary useful and give us structure and stability. But when any set of rules, no matter how good, becomes too rigid, grace can be crowded out. We always need to be flexible enough for God to touch us with mercy and forgiveness. Balancing these things is hard, and at Session this last Monday we discussed one of those difficult areas. What do we as a people filled with God's grace when someone approaches us in church asking for assistance? On the one hand, we know we must be gracious and merciful. On the other, we struggle with the need for appropriate boundaries. What we came up with in session was to say that anyone approaches you in church looking for assistance please refer them to Rev. Baugh. It's also a pastor's professional duty to find ways to balance, good order and grace. If you are approached, please refer them to me, and I promise to find the best way to deal with the situation. Without a doubt, I will sometimes make mistakes, but at least they will be consistent mistakes, and hopefully easy to correct. Blessings and peace.  
Rev. Matthew Baugh