

Good Stewards of His Grace 1 Peter 4:7-16

Introduction:

1. If we are saved, we have received the gift of God's grace. Paul tells us that this grace from God only comes through Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 1:4
2. Peter said that as we have received this gift of grace, we should minister the same one to another. vs. 10
3. I am to minister grace to you and you are to minister grace to me. When we do this, it makes us good stewards of His manifold grace.
4. As God's grace has abounded **to** me, it should abound **through** me in my relationship with others.
5. Hebrews 13:9 states that *"It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace."*
6. What does my life look like when my heart is established with grace? What does my life look like when I am ministering grace to others?

My life is characterized by spiritual stability. vs. 7

1. I am sober (serious) minded about the work of God, and therefore I possess a vibrant and active prayer life for others.
2. It is much easier to minister grace to you if I am praying for you fervently.
3. Too many church leaders today are occupied with the latest church growth fads or programs. They are carried from one to another. Here is what should occupy us: ministering the grace of God one to another. Hebrews 13:9

My life is characterized by gracious words. vs. 8-9

1. My mouth should minister grace to others, pure and simple.
Ephesians 4:29
2. If my mouth ministers condemnation, I lack grace, and the problem is with me, not the other person.
3. Love is a choice, and when we open up our hearts and choose to love others, we choose to pass over and forgive things that we could otherwise make an issue of.
vs. 8
4. As I understand God's amazing grace to me, I can't help but minister it to you.
 - Whenever people are very critical and judgmental of others, guaranteed, they do not live in an understanding or appreciation of God's grace in their own life.
5. The Bible says about Jesus that people *"wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth."* Luke 4:22

My life is characterized by an appreciation of those who are different than me. vs. 11

1. When I am full of myself, I despise those that are different than me. When I am full of grace, I thank God that others are different than me.
2. It is this diversity that makes the body of Christ function in an effective and powerful way. 1 Corinthians 12:14-27
3. There will be people in the body that we don't particularly click with, but we need to praise God for this, and realize that God may use them in a way that He can't use us.

My life is characterized by spiritual strength. vs. 12-16

1. When trials come in the life of a believer, many times people will get angry and bitter. A leader for God doesn't do this.
2. If our heart is established with grace, even during difficult times, we are consumed with ministering His grace to others.
3. As we live in an appreciation of His grace, we glorify God even through suffering and trials.

In Conclusion:

1. Romans 5:20 states that "*where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*" You can't out-sin God's grace.
2. When we are filled with God's grace, this is the attitude we have towards others: "You can't cause me to quit loving you. The more you sin, the more I will seek to love you, pray for you, and minister God's grace to you."
3. "The more you may sin against me, the more I will love you and minister the grace of Christ to you."