
SERMON NOTES May 8, 2022

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/notes

**Ephesians 4:7-13
Empowering Grace
Pastor Mike**

I. The _____ of God's grace

God's grace is demonstrated both by what _____ and by what _____

Grace _____ from sin and _____ to ministry

II. The gift of _____ grace

a. Spiritual or "grace _____" gifts

b. The _____ nature of grace gift

III. Embracing the _____ of our gifts

a. The challenge of the _____ effect

b. Gifts from a _____

IV. The _____ and _____ of various gifts

The pastor's role is distinctive because it is _____

He equips others who do the _____ of the church

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. To what degree do you agree with the following statement; “While we understand that our salvation is completely a gift of God’s grace, most Christians believe that their usefulness in the church’s ministry is primarily the result of their abilities and/or their “good works.”
 - a. Why do we affirm the concept of ‘grace alone’ when it comes to our salvation, only to revert back to a works mentality when it comes to our efforts in ministry?
 - b. What is the effect of this theology on those who have some confidence about themselves and their abilities? What is its effect on those who have a low view of their spiritual position and/or their personal abilities?
 - c. How has your view of and involvement in the church been defined by a ‘works’ perspective, and how might your involvement change if you fully grasped that God wants to use you as an expression of His grace?

2. If we have a low view of ourselves and how God could use in his ministry, to what degree is this based on a low view of ourselves and our abilities, and to what degree is this based on a low view of God’s grace and power – which aren’t great enough to overcome our weaknesses?
 - a. How might Satan use and pervert our desire for a proper humility to keep us from claiming the new identity and blessings God gives us as his children? Has he done this in your heart?
 - b. Can this kind of humility ultimately have some roots in a kind of pride?
 - c. What can you do to learn to claim and use the “grace gifts” that God has given you?

3. According to the “conventional” wisdom what is more important to creating a healthy and growing church; a highly gifted pastor or a committed and involved membership?
 - a. What do you understand to be the Bible’s answer to this question?
 - b. If there is a difference between modern wisdom and the Bible’s teaching, what is the impact of this view on the church and its ministry?

4. Many churches see their pastors as the professionals who are hired to do the church’s primary ministry; they are on the front line ‘ministers.’ But Paul teaches that the pastor’s role is to equip others for the work of ministry – the pastor is the backline support equipping the members who are on the front line.
 - a. To what degree is this idea that the pastor is the professional who does the church’s ministry believed and practiced in the modern American church? Where does this come from?
 - b. What would the church look like if we really believed and acted on the belief that the pastor’s job is to equip others, and each of the members of the church are the real front line ministers?
 - c. How can God use you in front line ministry in ways that allow you to be more effective than Pastor Mike or the other church staff?