

***“GRACE to do MORE than
simply get along”***

Church of the Messiah

November 20, 2022



I Peter 4: 7-11 (NIV)

“But the end of all things is near; therefore, be clear minded and clear minded so you can pray. And above all, love each other deeply, for love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do so as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength that God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen



“Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer.

Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything.

Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully.

Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God’s words; if help, let it be God’s hearty help. That way, God’s bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he’ll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes! Glory Just Around the Corner” (TMSG)



Laws of showing “LOVE”: to others

- 1) Treat others just as you want to be treated**
 - a. You want others to treat you with love and respect
 - b. You want others to listen when you talk
 - c. Start taking the initiative in seeking others out
- 2) Treat others the way Jesus treats you**
- 3) Take delight in honoring others**
- 4) We are called to meet others’ needs**

1 John 3:17-18 (NCV) *“What if a person has enough money to live on and sees his brother in need of food and clothing? If he does not help him, how can the love of God be in him? My children, **let us not love with words or in talk only. Let us love by what we do and in truth.**”*



Laws of showing “LOVE”: to others

5) We are called to LOVE others by FAITH

Ephesians 3:17 (NCV) *“I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love.”*

6) We are called to love the UNLOVELY

Matthew 5 Jesus declared... *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?_*

Therefore, you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”



There is a GRACE to more than simply get along

What God offers us...

- 1) God wants you to know that as His child, walking in the Spirit there is an ability in you greater than any ability you can muster on your own. We are too often trying to “WILL” something into existence. God is saying “***Yield to my Spirit.***”
- 2) Is there someone you have been holding a grudge or unforgiveness?
Romans 12: 18 declares.. “*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone*”
- 3) Don't be a “suspicious” person
I Corinthians 13 says, “*Love thinks no evil, it isn't easily provoked*”



Galatians 5: 13-25 (The Message)

It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows.

For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness.



For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day.

Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence?

It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits;

The vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way.



Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

