

GRACE PERSEVERES

SG Grace
Series # 7
Bill Yarger

We come to the end of our Grace-ism series. Grace is a predisposition to give unmerited favor and kindness to those who don't deserve it, because of something God has placed inside us. Today we want to talk about how grace perseveres.

Grace perseveres in building others up, rather than pleasing ourselves – **Read Romans 15:1-7:**

Verses 1-3 talk about bearing the weaknesses of others, rather than just pleasing ourselves. What are some ways those who are strong (mature in faith) can bear the weaknesses those who are weak (immature in the faith)?

The focus of relationship is not about pleasing ourselves, but pleasing our neighbor for his good, to his edification. How can we make relationship more about the growth of the other person and less about pleasing ourselves? Where do we get off track?

Verses 4-5 talks about perseverance and encouragement. What role does the Scripture play in encouraging you to persevere when relationships get hard? How has God encouraged you personally in a hard relationship?

What's the goal according to verses 6-7?

Grace perseveres in choosing God's wisdom rather than earthly wisdom as the guide for relationships – **Read James 3:13-18:**

Describe earthly wisdom according to verses 14-16. What's at the core of earthly wisdom for relationship? What does it produce?

Describe wisdom from above according to verses 13, 17-18. Look at each word below – how does this wisdom affect relationship? What does it produce?

Deeds in the gentleness of wisdom
Peaceable
Reasonable
Full of mercy and good fruits
Righteousness

Pure
Gentle
Unwavering
Without hypocrisy
Peace

Grace perseveres in giving unconditional love – **Read I Corinthians 13:4-8:**

Unmerited grace and unconditional love are at the core of the way God relates to us. He then invites us to give the same grace and love to each other.

What does I Corinthians 13 add to the idea of perseverance?

Of the characteristics described in these verses, what is one area where you would like to grow?

a Christ-like approach to relationships
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Application:

How can we keep the things we have been learning about grace alive in our lives?
In our group?

Resources for further group study:

As a way of continuing your growth in Grace-ism, we highly recommend the following resources for group study; *The Good and Beautiful God*, *The Good and Beautiful Life* and *The Good and Beautiful Community* by James Bryan Smith; *The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning; and *The New Freedom of Forgiveness* by David Augsburger.

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