

Gracing One Another

The only people who get better are people who know that, if they never get better, God will love them anyway.

– Steve Brown

Matthew 18:23-35

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and

payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So

His fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that

debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

The person who is living by grace sees this vast contrast between his own sins against God and the offenses of others against him. He forgives others because he himself has been so graciously forgiven. He realizes that, by receiving God's forgiveness through Christ, he has forfeited the right to be offended when others hurt him.

– Jerry Bridges

Proverbs 18:1

He who **separates himself** seeks his **own desire**, he quarrels against all sound wisdom.

James 3:16

For where jealousy and **selfish ambition** exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

The root of our sinfulness is the desire for our own happiness apart from God and apart from the happiness of others in God. All sin comes from a desire to be happy cut off from the glory of God and cut off from the good of others.

– John Piper

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief.

Proverbs 14:12-13

Whoever trusts in his own mind is
a fool, but he who walks in wisdom
will be delivered.

Proverbs 28:26

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is **good for building up**, as fits the occasion, **that it may give grace** to those who hear.

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, **as Christ loved us** and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: **just as I have loved you**, you also are to love one another.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,

We have unfortunately come to believe that a watching world will know that we are Christians by the worldly things we avoid or the churchy things we do. Christ has a different perspective. Our identity with Him is marked by the oneness that comes from our mutual love for each other.

– Joseph Stowell

Ephesians 4:2

with all humility and gentleness, with
patience, **bearing with one another**
in love

Colossians 3:13

bearing with one another and, if one
has a complaint against another,
forgiving each other; **as the Lord has**
forgiven you, so you also must
forgive.

Our Lord has many weak children in his family, many dull pupils in his school, many raw soldiers in his army, many lame sheep in his flock. Yet he bears with them all, and casts none away. Happy is that Christian who has learned to do likewise with his brethren.

– J. C. Ryle