

FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE

- ▶ We are all called to be _____ of God's grace.
 - > A steward was the #1 servant in a large estate or household.

SERIES QUESTION: Why the Church?

- > We are the stewards of God's grace until He comes again.

SERIES THEME and TEXT: To restore our confidence in and commitment to being the people of God -- I Peter 2:9, 10

TODAY'S QUESTION: Are we being faithful stewards of God's grace?

TODAY'S THEME: As faithful stewards of God's grace, let us love deeply, welcome graciously, and serve generously

TODAY'S TEXT: I Peter 4:7-10

- ▶ Several of Jesus' stories were about faithful and unfaithful _____.
 - Matthew 25:21, 23
 - Luke 12:42ff

Question → What do you want most in a servant or a steward?

Answer → _____

- I Corinthians 4:1,2

AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE:

I. LET US LOVE _____

I Peter 4:7 & 5:8

- ▶ One of a steward's main responsibilities would be to make sure that the Master's house had fresh, clean _____.

A. GOD'S GRACE IS DEEP

- ▶ As stewards of God's grace it is our responsibility to make sure that _____ is deep and sincere.

v.8 -- "Above all, love each other deeply..." (emphasis added)

> There is nothing more important or _____ in the Church than deep and real love.

> There is nothing more disappointing than a Church where the love is _____, lukewarm, and stagnant.

I Peter 1:22b -- "...have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart."

Question → Who do you know that needs to be loved more deeply?

Lord, I need to love _____ more deeply!

Question → Where do we find a deeper love? Where is the fountain?

> _____ IS OUR LIVING WATER!

- John 7:37b, 38

Question → Have you been to the fountain of life today? Did you drink deeply of Jesus' everlasting, life-giving love?

B. GOD'S GRACE IS _____

- ▶ God's love and grace are deep and wide.
- ▶ Deep love makes a wide Church!
 - v.8b

> Grace covers, it does not _____!

- James 5:19, 20 (Prov. 10:12)

- ▶ A shallow Church is disappointing but a _____ Church is a curse!

> Jesus warned of wicked servants who received abundant mercy but then would not even forgive minor offences.

- Matthew 18:23ff

- ▶ Stewards of God grace extend _____ grace to others.

Question → Have you received the deep and abundant love of Jesus? Are you extending that love to others?

Lord, I need to show more grace to _____!

AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S GRACE:

II. LET US WELCOME _____

- ▶ The steward's responsibility is to always be ready to welcome those who needed a _____ place to rest and recover in their journey.

A. GOD'S GRACE IS A PLACE OF WELCOME

> Hospitality was an expected virtue in Jesus' time.

Question → What does Jesus expect of the Church today?

- Hebrews 13:2
- (Also Romans 12:13; I Timothy 3:2, 5:10; Titus 1:8; Ill John 1:8)

Question → What kind of a welcome do people find in our Church or homes?

- ▶ People _____ when they are welcome!
- ▶ People do not feel welcome where there are a lot of _____ Christians.

Lord, I need to stop grumbling about _____!

B. GOD'S GRACE IS A PLACE OF _____

▶ Hospitality is the beginning of healing!

Question → Where did we get the word and idea for hospitals from?

- > Gracious hospitality creates a healing _____.
- > When the Church is a welcoming place of grace, people can _____ to find the healing that they need!

Question → Will the broken and wounded find the Healer here?

- ▶ When we are gracious to others, _____ is here!!
- Matthew 25:35 ff

**Lord, help us to be more welcoming to the wounded and broken!
Lord, help me to be more gracious to _____!**

- ▶ Every one of us has been _____ to be gracious!
- > To serve well we need to know and understand our gifts.

CONCLUSION: The Master we serve, _____ His servants!

- Luke 12:35 ff

KINGSWAY LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

OPENING: Share your experiences with good and bad service.

- > Describe a time when you received excellent service.
 - What happened? How did it affect you?
 - What made it good? Why do you think it happened?
- > Describe a time when you received bad service.
 - What happened? How did it affect you?
 - Why do you think it happened?

READ I Peter 4:7-11 and discuss what you understand about verse 10 where we are told that we are to be "faithful stewards of God's grace".

> Who or what is a steward? What is expected of a steward?

[Note: The Greek word for steward is made up of two words – house (oikos) and rules (nomos).]

> Other scriptures you can refer to are:

- Luke 12:42-48
- I Corinthians 4:1,2
- Genesis 39:2-6

Make a list of ideas and lessons we can learn so that we will be better and more faithful stewards of God's grace.

> How does this apply to our time? Money? Homes? Church?

Pastor Barry ended his message by pointing out that from I Peter 4:10 we are all gifted to be gracious!

CLOSE by taking time to acknowledge some of the gracious gifts that you see in each other and then **PRAY** that we can all be better stewards of God's grace this week.