

LOVE AND GRACE EXPRESSED AMONG US IN COMMUNITY

• Describe a campus ministry environment in which you have personally been involved where love and grace were being expressed. What was it about this community that was so attractive to you? Did seekers find it attractive as well?

<John 13:34-35> A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

••• What does it mean for us to be among the people of God?

Deuteronomy 7:6
Romans 12:5
Ephesians 2:19
1 Peter 2:9-10

•• From the passages below, describe the kind of relationship God required of His people in the Old Testament and New Testament respectively. Note the characteristics of community that God desires for His people.

Leviticus 19:9-18
Deuteronomy 10:17-19
Ephesians 4:25-32

••• Consider the communities of first century believers in the following passages. What aspects do you find most appealing? Which of these might be emulated today (both in local expressions of the Body of Christ and in the Church worldwide)?

Acts 1:12-14
Acts 2:42-47
Acts 11:19-30
Acts 15:1-23
Acts 20:1-37
Philippians 1:3-11
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

••• The Pharisees present an unfortunate example where love and grace were not expressed. Jesus has some harsh words for them in Matthew 23. List some of the “community killers” you see in this chapter. Are there some we’re more inclined to repeat today?

••• What principles and practices of community among the people of God do you observe in Colossians 3:12-17?

••• From the following passages what are some of the ways love and grace can be demonstrated among us?

John 13:1-17 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 James 5:13-16
Romans 12:9-21 James 2:1-13 1 Peter 4:8-10

••• Think about the passages you have studied, consider specifically how the following help (or possibly don’t help) to create an environment of love & grace:

- <my attitudes>
- <my actions>
- <my words>

What steps could you take to strengthen the community of love & grace in your sphere of influence?

“In a community of grace, who I am in God’s eyes is not questioned; instead, it is affirmed.”

-Bill Thrall

> can you share with the things you are learning?
> how can you make this study your prayer?
> what will you do with what you have learned?