

Immeasurably More Grace

The Letter to the Ephesians

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

⁸ This is why it says:

‘When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people.’

⁹ (What does 'he ascended' mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions^[c]? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ 'In your anger do not sin': do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

5 ¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: no immoral, impure or greedy person – such a person is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.^[e] ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: ‘Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise,
¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.
¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled
with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs
from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,
²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ.

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the
church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. ²⁴ Now as the church submits
to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing^[f] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church – ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.'^[g] ³² This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² 'Honour your father and mother' – which is the first commandment with a promise – ³ 'so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.' ⁴ Fathers, ^[i] do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favour when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. ⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favouritism with him.

Our Action	Our I.D.	God's Action	God's I.D.
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**God's
I.D.**

**God's
Action**

**Our
I.D.**

**Our
Action**

God's I.D.	God's Action	Our I.D.	Our Action

God's I.D.	God's Action	Our I.D.	Our Action
Love	Loving (Cross)	We are loved	We love

God's I.D.	God's Action	Our I.D.	Our Action
Love	Loves (Cross)	We are loved	We love
Forgiving	Forgives	Forgiven	We forgive

Immeasurably More Grace (Ephesians Chapter 4:1-6:9)

Grace for unity (4:1-16)

Immeasurably More Grace (Ephesians Chapter 4:1-6:9)

Unity amongst believers:

- a. Depends on the Christlikeness of our character and conduct
- b. Arises from the unity of God
- c. Is enriched by the diversity of our gifts

Immeasurably More Grace (Ephesians Chapter 4:1-6:9)

Apostle - “One who is sent out”

Bible examples – the Twelve, Paul, Priscilla and Aquilla

Jesus – Jesus was the one sent by God (John 3:16)

Core questions Apostles ask: Are we leading the people of God to their destiny? Are our people transforming this city or region?

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Prophet - “One who listens to, and hears from, God”

Bible examples – Anna and Simeon (Luke 2), Agabus (Acts 11:28, 21:20)

Jesus – Everything he said!

Core questions Prophets ask: Are the people of God hearing his voice and responding appropriately? What is God saying about this and what are our people doing about it?

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Evangelist - 'One who brings good news and shares the message readily'

Bible examples – Philip (Acts 8)

Jesus – Samaritan woman (John 4)

Core questions Evangelists ask: Are new people entering the Kingdom of God? Are we engaging the lost and equipping our people to share their faith?

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Pastor – ‘One who shepherds God’s people, who cares for others with a tender heart.’

Bible examples – Barnabas

Jesus – Good Shepherd (John 10)

Core questions Pastors ask: Are the people of God caring for and showing compassion for people? Are our people becoming more like Jesus?

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Teacher – ‘One who holds forth the truth and is excited by it.’

Bible examples – Apollos (Acts 18)

Jesus – Matthew 5-7

Core questions Teachers ask: Are the scriptures being adequately taught and applied?

Immeasurably More Grace (Ephesians Chapter 4:1-6:9)

Q) Which ministry role most resonates with you?

Q) What steps can you take to grow in this area of ministry?

Immeasurably More Grace (Ephesians Chapter 4:1-6:9)

Grace for unity (4:1-16)

Grace for purity (4:17-5:20)

Grace for relationships (5:21-6:9)

Immeasurably More Grace (Ephesians Chapter 4:1-6:9)

God uses our everyday relationships to:

- 1) Teach us about himself and to make us like him
- 2) To put his character on display to the world

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