

Series: Ephesians  
Title: Given Grace  
Text: Ephesians 4: 3  
Date: March 30, 2014  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

**Ephesians 4: 7: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

The Holy Spirit is teaching believers how to walk.

**Ephesians 4: 1: I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2: With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3: Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

The Holy Spirit teaches believers to do so because we are one.

**Ephesians 1: 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5: One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6: One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.**

The Holy Spirit teaches believers though we are one, we do not all have the same gifts

**Ephesians 4: 7: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

**Proposition:** If believers would truly endeavor to keep our unity, it will help us to remember that every one of us is given gifts of grace in different measure, according as our Head, Christ Jesus, is pleased to give.

**Title:** Given Grace

**I. FIRST, IT WILL HELP EACH BELIEVER TO REMAIN LOWLY AND MEEK TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING WE HAVE FROM GOD IS “GIVEN”—Ephesians 4: 7: But unto every one of us is GIVEN...**

This word “given” means it came as a “gift” from a source outside of us. What is “given” to a believer? Our calling is a gift. (v1) Our new spirit is a gift: “lowliness and meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, love of Christ and of one another, v3: even our endeavoring is a gift, our unity is a gift, the bond of peace is a gift, to be of one body, one hope, one faith, one baptism is all a gift, to be born of one Spirit, to be chosen of one God and Father, to have our Father sovereignly rule over all, through all and in you all.” These are all gifts given freely of God. But our greatest gift of all is our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 9:15: Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

So our text speaks of gifts of the new heart-new spirit, it speaks of offices and operations and administrations, it speaks of talents—these are all gifts given in measure—different measure—to every one of us.

Application: So we, believers, have no reason to be anything but lowly and meek before God and before one another because everything believers have is a gift given.

1 Corinthians 4:7: For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? of God.

Brethren, never seek the highest place. If we do, we will have a lot of competition. If we choose the lowest place, we will have plenty of room. That is one reason it is more peaceful to be lowly. There is not nearly as many

seeking to be lowly. But Christ said to be greatest in the kingdom of God is to be the least and servant of all. (Mt 18: 4; 23: 11; Lu 22: 26) The way up with God is down.

**II. SECONDLY, IT WILL HELP US TO BE MEEK AND LOWLY, TO BE LONGSUFFERING AND TO FORBEAR ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE, TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING GIVEN IS BY GRACE—  
Ephesians 4: 7: But unto every one of us is given grace—**

Note: He speaks of gifts here, because every gift is the gift of grace.

What is grace? Grace is God's free favor—it is not based on any worthiness in our persons; it is not based on any works we do—grace is the unmerited favor of God freely given to sinners.

Grace cannot be based on any good in us because Christ said, “there is none good but one, that is, God.” (Mk 10: 18)

Psalm 14: 2: The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3: They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Grace cannot be based on God foreseeing that we would believe because faith is not of us, it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2: 8: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Grace cannot be the earned by our works, for God will not share his glory with us.

Ephesians 2: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

We are all sinners, deserving of nothing from God but justice and hell's eternal destruction. We broke God's law in the garden; we break the law given at Mt. Sinai, even in our thoughts.

Deuteronomy 25:16: For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Proverbs 28:9: He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, **even his prayer shall be abomination.**

The vain god's of man's imagination is abomination to God: the abomination of the Ammonites, the abomination of Moab, the abomination of the Zidonians, the abomination of the Americans, the abomination of the New Jersians

Our problem is a heart problem.

Proverbs 16:5: Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

It goes two ways: God hates the wickedness of sinful flesh; likewise, the natural man is enmity against God.

Proverbs 29:27: An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

Application: So never despise grace! If God did not give grace freely to some, none would be saved.

But whether sinners or not, it is Gods' prerogative to give grace, and gifts of grace, to whomsoever he chooses.

Jeremiah 18: 1: The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2: Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. 3: Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. 4: And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make *it*. 5: Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 6: O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay *is* in the potter's hand, so *are* ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

Romans 9: 10:...when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; 11: (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12: It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13: As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14: What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15: For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16: So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy... 19: Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? [We could answer because we all fell in Adam] For who hath resisted his will? [We could answer all of us] 20: Nay but [here is the right answer] O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21: Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Application: So do not get angry that God gives grace to some and not others. None of us deserve anything but hell. And it is God's prerogative to be merciful to whom he will. Instead, be thankful that God does give grace to some, else we would all perish in our sins. Members of Christ's body were chosen freely by grace, adopted by grace, sanctified by grace, preserved by grace, and we shall be resurrected by grace and glorified by grace. "By grace are ye saved." (Eph 2: 8) So grace makes us lowly and meek.

### **III. THIRDLY, IT WILL HELP US IF WE REMEMBER FROM WHOM GRACE, AND THE GIFTS OF GRACE, ARE GIVEN—Ephesians 4: 7: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

Everything I just mentioned is in Christ and given by Christ. By Christ Jesus, every one of us in Christ's body, were justified freely and made righteous by grace.

Romans 5: 6: For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7: For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9: Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10: For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

By our resurrected Christ we heard the gospel and by Christ we are given spiritual life. But to prevent a haughty, proud, fleshly attitude, the Holy Spirit says, "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." (Eph 4: 7)

Illustration: A cook uses a measuring cup to measure the ingredients they put in the pot. Every believer is an earthen vessel—a clay pot—into who Christ measures various gifts of grace, as he will.

In Christ's body we all are one by these seven things which unite us. But there are: babies in grace, adolescents in grace, teenagers in grace, men and women in grace and elders in grace. Some weak in grace, some strong, some at all points in between. It has nothing to do with age or time one has been under the sound of the gospel; it is all dependent upon the measure of grace Christ gives.

We each have an unction from the Holy One and know all things. But one may not be able to speak the truth as plainly as another. We each know how we are to walk to honor God and Christ but we are sometimes overtaken in

a fault. So remembering that we each have differing measures of grace we are longsuffering, forbearing one another in love.

Galatians 5: Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. 6: 1: Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2: Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3: For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Romans 12:3: For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

If you or one of your brethren need more grace: grace of lowliness or meekness, grace of longsuffering or forbearance, grace of temperance, grace of faith, or whatever grace is needed, knowing grace is given us from Christ:

Hebrews 4:16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

He delights in mercy. Christ welcomes every child at any time. The door of his storehouse is always open. He entertains every one of us to avail ourselves of his fullness and grace. The only qualification is a contrite, empty heart and an open mouth. 'Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.' (Ps 81: 10)

Application: So remember, brethren, we are one! But unto every one of us is given grace, according to the measure of the gift of Christ. So with ourselves and our brethren, trace every blessing, every good word and work, to Christ!

James 1:17: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

How this simplifies things! This concentrates all our devotions, all our praises into one—Christ our All. Christ's willingness to give us grace exceeds our conception as much as his blood exceeds all our guilt. All our doubting will be removed if we remember his grace is as free as it is boundless. Christ "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." (Eph 3: 20)

Let us each ask ourselves, what has my worship, my service, my consecration been to Christ? To my brethren? This is so important. Let us use the gifts he gives for his glory and the good of our brethren using every ounce of strength Christ gives us.

1 Peter 4: 10: As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11: If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**Amen!**