



Giving Grace To Others

MAIN THING

What we have been given freely by God, we must give freely to others

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:17-21, Judges 15:3, 10-11, Matthew 18:21-35

ICEBREAKER

Which do you think is harder- to forgive someone or to ask someone to forgive you?

OPENING THOUGHT

The past three weeks, we have looked at the three stages of God's grace towards us- Seeking, Cleansing, and Transforming. Now we shift to what God expects us to DO with that grace- extend it to others. What we have freely received from God, we freely extend to others. However, that's easier said than done. Many of us live in the revenge cycle rather than extending grace to others, as we saw in the story of Samson. We see the revenge cycle at play in the world today, most famously between the Jews and Arabs- a four-thousand year old feud with each side intent on punishing the other side. The Bible shows us a very different vision for how we are to live- giving grace to others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. The story of Samson shows us the results of the revenge cycle. It shows us the results of two people in conflict each intent on "getting even." Are you currently caught up in a revenge cycle with someone? Have you ever seen this play out in life?
3. In Jesus' parable of the Unmerciful Servant, we saw four things about people who refuse to give grace to others. They were: 1) They don't see the connection between what they hope God gives them and what they are willing to give others, 2) they are irrational and illogical, 3) Their lack of grace is obvious to everyone, and 4) God will treat them as they have treated others. Is there anything about this parable that speaks to you or addresses something you are specifically dealing with right now?

LIFE APPLICATION

Giving grace to others may be difficult. Grace does not minimize the damage someone has done to you nor does it seek to sweep under the rug the sins that have been committed against you. However, the person who extends grace to others is the person that realizes that God has been sinned against far greater than any of us ever have, and following His example is key to our well-being and faith. If God can extend grace, so can we. Who in your life do you just need to extend grace to and move on?

CHALLENGE

A church without grace is a church without joy and a church without authenticity. How can we as people who make up Catalyst Christian Church make sure that Catalyst is a place where grace is freely exchanged between people so that we can be the church that God wants us to be?