



Part Three // Scott Landry // December 17, 2023

Christmas is the season of wonder, laughter, song, and celebration...it's a time to be surrounded by the ones you love, but let's face it: some people have a way of getting under our skin.

Would we see them differently if we first took a look at ourselves?

Scripture: Matthew 7:3-5, Romans 5:8

Bottom Line: Grace is the undeserved, unearned, unearnable favor that Jesus came to offer us.

Getting Started:

1. How do you think most people would finish the sentence, "The church is full of people who are _____?"
2. The church is most appealing when grace is most apparent. What would need to change in order for people to see the church as appealing? Do you have a part in that solution?

Diving In:

Read Matthew 7:3-5

3. If you were asked to explain Jesus' meaning to a young child, what would you say? How would you summarize his questions and challenge?
4. What do you think are the most common "planks" that prevent people from seeing clearly? Which of those planks do you identify with most?
5. What person or group of people is most difficult for you to extend grace to? Why? Does the sin of that person/people break your heart or disgust you? What's the difference?

Read Romans 5:8

6. When in your past have you been tempted to believe that you had to have your act together before God would love you? What does Paul say about that mentality?
7. What does God's demonstration of love teach us about our response to others in the midst of their darkest/most sinful times?
8. What part can you play in the solution to a problem or relationship? What does it look like practically for you to extend grace to that person who doesn't expect or deserve it?

Moving Forward:

We are the church . . . every day . . . everywhere.

As the church, we are most appealing - the church is most appealing - we build irresistible bridges when grace is most apparent. Grace is our greatest opportunity to be like our Father in heaven.

Pray together as a group using Romans 5:8 to thank God for his grace and asking him to give you the same mindset as you approach your most difficult relationships and problems.