

Mixed Up Grace:

The myth of the individual Christian



Christian life
is not an individual
journey..

Baptism into the Body- 1 Cor. 12:12-27 (NIV)

- The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
- Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.
- The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that **there should be no division in the body**, but that **its parts should have equal concern for each other**. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
- **Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.**

1. We are ALL functioning members...

- There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.
- Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit **is given for the common good.**
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NIV)

Other points of reference:

-Parable of the talents. (Matthew 25)

-Romans 12, Acts 2, Ephesians 5

2. The Body of Christ is inclusive, not exclusive...

- Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:
"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"
- The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.
 - Revelation 5:13ff (NIV)

Other points of reference:

-Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8)

-Jesus Calls Disciples (Mark 3:13)

-Sinful woman and the Pharisee (Luke 7)

-Psalm 117

3. The Body is only as healthy as it's most unhealthy part...

- Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.
- Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. **Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.** We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

– Romans 12:1-6 (NIV)

4. Mixed Up Grace

- [Do] not live the rest of [your] earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead...
- ...Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. **Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another** without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to **serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.** If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

– *1 Peter 4:1-11*