

“Giving Grace To The Weak”
Romans 14:1-19 * August 2, 2009

I. How have I experienced God’s grace?

A. _____ grace.

B. _____ grace.

C. _____ grace.

Why should we never get too prideful about the fact that God has chosen us to ‘be on his team’?

II. Why do we need to learn how to give grace to fellow believers?

A. Christians are at _____ spiritual levels.

B. We’re not all going to think the _____ about things.

a. What disputable matters are mentioned in Rom. 14?

b. What are some of the “gray areas” we may quarrel about today?

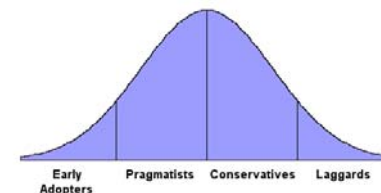
III. What would Paul say to the one who is on the side of “liberty”, or “change” or “moving forward”?

Don’t _____ on the others who aren’t where you are at.

A. How do I do this?

1. Show respect for the struggle some have to _____.

What does the following bell curve reveal about change?



2. Show respect for the struggle some have to stay _____.

IV. What would Paul say to the traditionalist who is a middle or late adopter?

Don’t _____ them.

A. How do I do this?

1. Show respect for the _____ the other person has with God.

2. Show respect for the _____ the other person has given to their point of view.

B. Who am I going to have to explain myself to when all is said and done?

V. How then are we to behave when we disagree about a gray area?

A. Stop _____ on one another.

B. Don’t forget what the _____ of _____ is really about.

What do I think God wanted me to hear this morning?

“Giving Grace To The Weak”
Romans 14:1-19 * August 2, 2009

I. *How have I experienced God’s grace?*

A. **Common** grace.

B. **Ministry** grace.

C. **Saving** grace.

Why should we never get too prideful about the fact that God has chosen us to ‘be on his team’?

When you become a Christian, when you join God’s team, it’s very easy if you’re not careful for your nose to go straight up in the air. You know the way it is during recess, when you divide up into two teams, and you are one of the first to get picked, and you sort of saunter up toward the captain who chose you, past all the other bozos yet to be picked. Well, it’s very easy for Christians to get that way. But you know, God didn’t choose you to be on his team because you’re all that. You’re Mr. Wonderful. No. In fact, you read your Bible, and you’ll soon discover that when God chooses people to be on his team, he usually begins with the bozos. What’s that do for your pride? Why did he choose the Hebrews? Deut. 7:7 – “The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.” Who’d Jesus choose to be his disciples? The bozos. A ragtag group of misfits if ever there was one. Who were the first ones to become Christians? Paul told the Corinthians – “Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise.”

II. *Why do we need to learn how to give grace to fellow believers?*

A. Christians are at **different** spiritual levels.

B. We’re not all going to think the **same way** about things.

a. *What disputable matters are mentioned in Rom. 14?*

Whether “unclean” foods should be eaten.

Whether certain days should be observed as Sabbaths or holy days.

b. *What are some of the “gray areas” we may quarrel about today?*

To what degree should women be involved in ministry? Is Jesus coming back before, during or after the Tribulation? Should a Christian drink alcohol? Which Bible version should a Christian read? What should a Christian make of Harry Potter? Or ‘Twilight’.

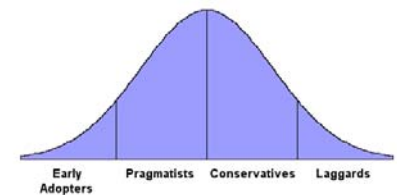
III. *What would Paul say to the one who is on the side of “liberty”, or “change” or “moving forward”?*

Don’t **look down** on the others who aren’t where you are at.

A. *How do I do this?*

1. Show respect for the struggle some have to **change**.

What does the following bell curve reveal about change?



2. Show respect for the struggle some have to stay **holy**.

IV. *What would Paul say to the traditionalist who is a middle or late adopter?*

Don’t **condemn** them.

A. *How do I do this?*

1. Show respect for the **relationship** the other person has with God.

2. Show respect for the **thought** the other person has given to their point of view.

B. *Who am I going to have to explain myself to when all is said and done?*

To God.

V. *How then are we to behave when we disagree about a gray area?*

A. Stop **passing judgment** on one another.

B. Don't forget what the **kingdom** of **God** is really about.

What do I think God wanted me to hear this morning?