



Sunday, February 1, 2015

ROMANS 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Sober Judgment

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SERMON NOTES: Romans 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The first step in “Finding ME”: Realize I’m not God: I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable. (Romans 7:14-25)

The second step in “Finding ME”: Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me. (Romans 8:1-17)

The third step in “Finding ME”: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ’s care and control. (Romans 12:1-2)

Romans 12:3

³ 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.

GOD’S GRACE CALLS ME TO LIVE. . .

- in community
- an authentic life
- an examined life

[Note: “. . . *in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*”- I believe that “the measure of faith” refers to the faith exhibited and proclaimed by Jesus and now is the foundation for all believers. Through the lens of His revealed grace we are called to look at ourselves.]

Consider how Paul put those words into action: 1 Timothy 1:12–17

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

GOD’S GRACE, EXTENDED TO ME, IS MY SOURCE OF STRENGTH

1 Timothy 1: 15-17

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- Christ's **mission**: ". . . Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"
- Paul's **condition**: ". . . in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example"
- Christ's mission and our condition join together to **impact others**: ". . . for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life."

THIS GRACE PERSPECTIVE BECOMES MY **FAITH** STORY

The fourth step in "Finding *ME*":

Openly **examine and confess** my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

(Romans 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:12-17)

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:12-17

OPENING

- How did you spend the blizzard of 2015? How much time did you spend shoveling?

GOING DEEPER

Spend time discussing the conforming effect the world can have on us.

- The grace of God carries with it a number of expectations. God's grace may be free, yet it comes with a price! Pastor Bruce mentioned three ways in which God's grace call us to live. Discuss the three implications found in Romans 12:3.

Leader's Note See the first page of this booklet, under "God's Grace Calls Me to Live".

One of the three mentioned in Sunday's message was to live our faith "in community". This is a peculiar challenge in New Hampshire. After all, we are the 'Live Free or Die" State. This spirit of independence resists the establishing of committed faith communities. Why do you think it is so hard to establish a faith community in New England? Discuss some solutions to this problem.

Leaders Note: You may want to ask people their experience when they first moved to the area. How does it compare to experiences in other regions?

- Living "an authentic life" was also mentioned. In 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Paul gave us a glimpse into how he viewed God's grace, and how he viewed himself. Paul saw God's grace as a way to measure when reflecting upon ourselves. How does the "measure of faith" keep us from overestimating ourselves?

Leaders Note: How does our dependence on grace keep us humble? Think of a time when you realized how dependent you were on God's grace.

CHALLENGE:

- The fourth step in "Finding Me" is to openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust. How might you put this into practice?

Leaders Note: Is there someone in your life that you can share with openly regarding your hurts, hang-ups and habits. Feel free to suggest our Celebrate Recovery Ministry as a safe place to share our struggles together.