



November 22, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Pastor David Mitchell

Why We Live Ephesians 3:1-13

We live to receive the grace of God. Ephesians 3:1-5

"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you"

- **So we can live it to overcome our circumstances.** *"Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus"* (v. 1-2)
| Peter 4:10
- **So we can reveal it to others that need it.** *"grace which was given to me for you"* (v. 3-5)

We live to pursue the results of this grace. Ephesians 3:6

"to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel"

- **We pursue meaningful relationships with difficult people**
 - Fellow heirs =
 - Fellow members =
 - Fellow partakers =
- **Who is a "Gentile" to you?**

We live to share the message of this grace. Ephesians 3:7-9

- **We share it in His power**
"of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power."
- **We share it even if we feel unqualified**
"To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles..."
- **We share the truth of the unfathomable riches of Christ**
"...the unfathomable riches of Christ"

We live to promote the purpose behind God's grace. Ephesians 3:10-13

"so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory."

- **So our church can make known how great our God is to the rulers in heavenly places.**
- **So we live a bold and confident life.**
- **So we do not lose heart in tribulations.**

What are some of the challenges you face in helping other people around you know about the grace of Christ? Are there some people that are more difficult to reach out to than others?

Digging Deeper:

In today's passage, Paul digs deeper in the importance of the church. Having described how we are a "household of God," "holy temple in the Lord," "dwelling of God in the Spirit," he now elaborates on why we live in those roles. The core of our hearts and lives is to live out that grace of Christ so others can see it and receive it. Paul is amazed at this new truth—that the Gentile and Jew are one new body in Christ. This is a new truth and reality found in the church. Gentiles and Jews were hostile to each other. And now, they are equal partners as the household of God. The relevance for us is to reach out to even the most difficult people in our community and make this same grace known to them.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Who do you know that needs to learn of the grace and unfathomable riches of Christ? Write down their names and pray for their heart to be open to Christ. How can you be an example of the grace of Christ that attracts them to our Lord? What kind acts and attitudes can you display to them?

God has given to each of us a "stewardship of grace." We need to spread the message of this grace. What are you to do with that grace according to I Peter 4:10, 11? Where can you apply that in your life?

We are to preach to others the unfathomable riches of Christ. Read the passages below. Based on those verses, what are some of the riches of Christ you enjoy and can share with others?

Romans 2:4; Romans 11:33; Ephesians 2:4; I Timothy 6:17; Colossians 2:2; Colossians 3:16

One major reason we are to make known the grace and riches of Christ, is to let the "rulers in heavenly places" see how great our God is. These "rulers" include both good and evil angels. There is a spirit world that watches how we live our lives. Our church is the means God uses to make known to those "rulers" how great His wisdom and power are.

Read the following passages and write down what they say angels are watching in us. Remember to read the surrounding context. I Peter 1:12; I Corinthians 11:10; I Timothy 5:21; I Corinthians 4:9; Luke 15:10. How well are you doing in these areas? In what ways can you grow and seek the Lord gift of grace and power to help you?

Next Steps:

1. **Join a LifeGroup to experience more of Calvary's partnership in ministry and be encouraged in your life.** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. Learn more about baptisms at calvarylife.org/lifegroups
2. This holiday season, reach out and even invite someone who needs the grace of Christ to your house. Invite them to some of our special services so they can hear about Christ. Learn more about Christmas at Calvary at calvarylife.org/christmas