

## WHERE WE FIND GRACE (vv. 12-14)

1. What is compelling about the way Paul describes the church in these verses?
2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in forming the church?
3. What has God done to preserve the dignity of unity of the whole?
4. What has God done to preserve the unity of the whole?
5. What happens when we emphasize individuality over unity?

## TWO VERY REAL THREATS TO GRACE (vv. 15-26)

Paul tells us that there are two very real threats to our experience of God's grace within the body of Christ. God's grace is threatened when some feel they have nothing to offer the church, and God's grace is threatened when some feel the church has nothing to offer them.

1. READ VERSES 15-20
  - a. Why might someone feel as if they have nothing to offer the church?
  - b. Why would they be wrong?
2. READ VERSES 21-26
  - a. Why might someone feel the church has nothing to offer them?
  - b. Why would they be wrong?

## HOW WE BECOME A PLACE OF GRACE

In Sunday's message we said that the church becomes a place of grace when we see the church the way that God sees the church, when we see ourselves the way that God sees us, and when we see others the way that God sees them.

1. How does seeing the church through God's eyes lend itself to a deeper experience of God's grace?
2. What are some things that may need to change about the way we view the church?
3. How might seeing ourselves the way that God sees us lend itself to a deeper experience of God's grace?
4. What are some things that may need to change about the way we view ourselves?
5. How might seeing others the way that God sees them lend itself to a deeper experience of God's grace within the body of Christ?
6. What are some of the things that may need to change about how we view others?



360 DISCUSSION 10.09.16

## A PLACE OF GRACE



One of our greatest fears is the loss of individuality. Several science fiction films of the last couple of decades have plot lines that highlight the threat of being absorbed into a lifeless reality where one loses all sense of personal identity. In "Star Trek: First Contact" the threat is the Borg (1996). In "The Matrix", the threat is of course, the Matrix (1999). In "Divergent" the threat is the several factions that have come to dominate the human population, and have no room for anyone who does not neatly fit within the factions (2016).

Paul too, sees uniformity as a very real threat to the body of Christ. He is deeply concerned that many of the members of the church in Corinth are being overlooked because their gifts are less spectacular than those the Corinthians valued most.

But Paul is equally concerned that our individuality and the rugged individualism that it breeds not be allowed to rip the very fabric of what God desires to create in the church—an organic unity that is far more powerful and beautiful than anything we could ever experience on our own.

The church becomes a place of grace when every member has equal concerns for every other member, and we all experience the fullness of God's grace as we support and minister to one another in and through the gifts God has given us.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-26

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