

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Non Negotiables // Experience Visible Grace
Pastor Marcus
January 29, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite snowy day activity?

Readings: Ephesians 3:1-13

Outline:

- I. Grace Unites
 - a. Grace unites us to one another and overcomes divisions, because it renders everything else secondary to the lordship of Jesus.
 - b. In the midst of every single division, the Church remains united. Because our unity is in something far greater and more powerful than ourselves, it is in the grace and mercy of our God.
Q: *When do we struggle to feel fully united with the Church? What gets in the way of our perception of unity?*
- II. Grace Empowers
 - a. God's grace and power alone makes ministry possible. It makes the Church the Church and propels the mission of God.
 - b. The message of grace says that you have God's favor, the hope of eternity, and inheritance in the kingdom all because of Jesus.
 - c. Grace is what fuels everything else: our pursuit of holiness, making disciples, the calling to live as Christ's representatives in the world, etc. When we rest in that, we are ready to be sent.
Q: *How does God's grace help to empower ourselves and others?*
- III. Grace Sends
 - a. When we experience grace, it propels us into the world as a people made one by grace, as a people transformed and empowered by grace, and as a people sent to make grace visible. Grace changes everything.
 - b. We are able to experience and encounter grace through worship. We gather, not to remember what we need to do, but to remember who we are and what God has done for us.
Q: *How can we display grace to others in our lives this week?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can the recognition of God's grace allow us to be freed from the day-to-day worries we experience?
- 2) What are some ways that we can share God's grace with those who may not feel it?
- 3) How can we foster encounters with the feelings of grace outside of Sunday mornings?
- 4) How does acknowledging God's love for all help us to feel more connected to those that are different from us?

Suggestions for further study:

- Romans 6:14 **Q: *How does this verse demonstrate God's unconditional love and grace?***
- Titus 2:11-14 **Q: *How is God's grace training us to resist sin?***

Closing Prayer:

Father God, we thank you for grace. We thank you that you are the God that forgives our debts. But we remember that you are the same God that calls us to forgive our debtors. Just as we have received grace, you call us to extend grace. We ask that you would remind us that you have given us everything we need and more. Shape, transform, and empower us to make your grace known. Amen.