



July 16, 2023

Abounding Grace: Belonging

Full of His Goodness

Ephesians 4:7-8

For Discussion and Reflection

1. The Apostle John writes, "from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace," John 1:16. Read John 1:16-18. What are we to expect from Jesus' ongoing ministry to his church (v18)? Who does Jesus want us to know?
2. Read Ephesians 1:22. The Father knows and loves the Son. He calls him the "Beloved," (Eph. 1:6). What did he do for us to ensure that we experience the fullness of Christ? Paul says that the church is the fullness of him who fills all in all. What does that mean? What does it imply?
3. The WCF (Westminster Confession of Faith) 25:3 says, "Unto this catholic visible church Christ has given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the world..." Notice the role of the church in the "perfecting of the saints." What role does the church have in your holiness? How does the church engage in the development of your holiness?
4. WCF 26:1, says, "All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces...being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and grace..." What does this teach you about the goodness of God through Christ? What are the graces that we enjoy from Christ and each other? Eph. 4:7.
5. In Ephesians 3:17-19, Paul prays that Christ will inhabit our hearts through faith and that together "with the saints" we will comprehend the "love of God." Why does Paul put our ability to comprehend the love of Christ in the company of the saints? What implication does that have for a person loosely affiliated with the church? What responsibility to each other does that give those within the church?
6. WCF 26:1 finishes, saying, "they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man." What duties do we perform with each other that contribute to each other's good in our inward man?
7. What graces from Christ have you experienced within the church? What graces from Christ have you contributed to the church?
8. What steps, based on today's sermon, can you take to grow in the graces of Christ?