

The Blessing of Serving One Another in the Grace of God

1Peter 4:7-11 (part 2:vs 9-11)

- As a new creation in Christ, we are to live in the light of eternity, having the same mind as

Christ: I) Be sober-minded, self-controlled, unto prayer;

II) Love one another earnestly;

III) Show Hospitality without Grumbling (v9)

- Christian service & life takes place in God's redeemed community (Rom.12:5).
- Hospitality: treat guests and strangers cordially, but has idea of an "imposition", an unexpected drop in.
- There is a potential, and often the reality, of abuse; thus "without grumbling."
- This is where love covers a multitude of sins; pray for the mind of Christ.

IV) God's Gift and Varied Grace in Action (vv.10-11)

- "Various": precious stones, different colors (1Pet.2:5) – richness of God's gifts.
- Each has received at least one gift, all of which are manifestations of God's rich Grace. (1 Cor. 12:7).
- Varieties of gifts reflect God's glorious, multifaceted character and nature.
- What are the purpose, function and role of these gifts?
- They are **gifts of the Spirit**- attention on God and those we serve, not ourselves.
- Focus is Christ, not self-validation.
- Gifts are for service unto the Lord, for His glory.
- Gifts of service: deacons; Gift of teaching: elders (1 Pet. 5:2-3).
- Preaching and teaching of God's Word is not just casual conversation.
- Grace and power of God are essential if men are called to exercise such a gift.
- Waiting on tables, and teaching/preaching ministries are all to be performed in His strength, in His Name, and in His Spirit. This results in God being glorified.

Conclusion and Application

- How important is **hospitality** today, within the church?
- Are we pursuing the Way of the Cross, the Way of Christ?
- Are we using our **gifts** to serve each other, or to promote our own advancement?(Phil. 2:1-4)
- Are we exercising these gifts in God's strength, by His Spirit, or in the flesh? (Phil. 3:3)