

1 Corinthians, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

- A. God changes us through relationships.
- B. The small rods poke at our relationships and grow us.
- C. Text: 1 Corinthians 15.
- D. The root of Paul's ministry is the grace of God.
 - 1. By grace Paul was what he was.
 - 2. By grace Paul was more effective.
 - 3. Grace was with God.

II. The grace of God is a divine attitude.

- A. Paul needed an explanation for what he became.
- B. He was one born out of due time. Although he was "aborted," God made him an apostle. This is grace.
- C. Things we need to know about God's grace.
 - 1. Humans are moral failures.
 - a. Sin is the failure to do what we are required to do.
 - b. Trespass is insisting on doing what we are forbidden to do.
 - c. Guile is projecting that which is false.
 - d. Iniquity is perverting that which is good.
 - 2. God is absolutely just.
 - a. We often do not hear much about God's justice because people focus on his love.
 - b. To understand God's love we have to understand his justice. We see his grace in this.
 - 3. Moral failures are important before a just God.. God has taken those who were incapable to an unbelievable position as servants of God.
 - 4. God is perfectly free to deal with man as He chooses.

III. The grace of God is a divine stimulus.

- A. Works evidence our salvation.
- B. Gratitude is the legitimate response to grace.
- C. Being overwhelmed by grace moves one into a life of obedience and grace.

IV. The grace of God is a daily enabling.

- A. Charisma means to be gifted.
- B. God's grace is that which gives us the ability to give.
- C. The gifts of the Spirit are those gifts given to express the God given gift of grace.

Application questions:

1. Why is an understanding of sin a prerequisite to understanding grace?

2. How does grace show itself in the lives of believers?

3. What is the relationship between the spiritual gifts and grace? Explain.
