

WRITE IT DOWN!

A People Serving

What in the World is the Church?

1 Peter 4:8-11

November 4, 2007

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LISTEN UP!

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1. Grace Gifts are given to all who believe the Gospel.

- Charismata = gifts OF the Gospel of grace.
- Grace gifts are many and varied.

2. Grace Gifts are God's and we are stewards.

- We are to put God's gifts to use.
- We will give an account to God.

3. Grace gifts are for serving one another.

- Grace gifts are not for our self-enjoyment or self-advancement, but for others.
- Grace gifts are FOR the Gospel of grace.

4. Grace gifts are to be exercised in dependence on God.

- Exercising our gifts in our own strength leads to burnout.
- God will supply what we need as we seek Him and step out and serve others.

5. Grace gifts are ultimately for the glory of God.

- God is glorified when we depend on Him.
- God is glorified when the Gospel is magnified as we use our grace gifts to serve one another.

THINK IT OVER!

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1. Read 1 Peter 4:8-11 again. What does verse 8 have to do with verse 10?
2. Compare 1 Peter 4:10-11 with Romans 12:6-8. What is similar between these passages? How do the passages amplify one another? What specific gifts are mentioned in Romans? According to both passages, who are Grace Gifts given to?
3. Compare 1 Peter 4:10-11 with Ephesians 4:7-12. How do these passages amplify one another? What specific gifts are mentioned in Ephesians? In Ephesians, what are Grace Gifts for?
4. Compare 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. How do these passages amplify one another? What gifts are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12? In 1 Corinthians 12, what are the gifts for according to v. 7?
5. Back in 1 Peter 4:10, who do the gifts belong to? What is a steward and what is implied in the concept of stewardship?
6. In 1 Peter 4, who are gifts for immediately and ultimately? How does the exercise of our gifts in the way prescribed here bring glory to God?

WORK IT OUT!

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1. What did you like about this text and message? What moved you? What challenged you? What didn't you understand?
2. Why do discussions of spiritual gifts sometimes lead us "into the weeds?" What are some of the controversial issues that arise when we discuss this topic? Where are you at on these issues?
3. Parse this statement and make sure you understand it: **Grace gifts are FROM the Gospel and FOR the Gospel.**
4. Sometimes the mystery of Grace Gifts can lead to paralysis. How do we avoid this?
5. We've said that the Scriptural lists are not exhaustive. Still using the Scriptures as a starting point, what do you think are your Grace Gifts. In other words, where have you experienced joy and fruit in your service to the Lord and to his people?
6. Where are you serving at Grace right now? Where have you served in the past? Where would you like to serve in the future? What are reasons that we sometimes don't serve others with our Grace Gifts?