

A Need to Slow Down

Romans 12.9-13

Our text today stresses the importance of the practical aspect of Christianity. In it we will see several areas where grace affects the Christian. We are challenged to "flesh out" our theology in every day living. It is really a continuation of the message contained in the preceding verses. The message here is that we not only have a responsibility in the exercise of gifts, but we also have a responsibility in the **exercise of grace**, a responsibility to love by grace.

God's grace is not only extended to us, but is to be ministered through us, both to those in the church, and to those outside of the church. The point is that grace has an effect upon us. It not only has an **effect** upon us, but it should **affect** our behavior. What are some ways in which the exercise of grace should affect us?

Grace Should Affect Our Character

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." Romans 12.9

*"But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

Galatians 5.22-23

Grace Should Affect Our Relationships

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12.10

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Philipians 2.3

Grace Should Affect Our Actions

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."
Romans 12.11

Grace Should Affect Our Convictions

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12.12

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11.1

Grace Should Affect Our Concern for Others

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12.13

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3.16-18

Boice, James Montgomery. *Romans: Justification by Faith, Vol. 4*. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, 1991.

Hoke, J. David. Pastor, New Horizons Community Church, 2303 Evesham Rd. Voorhees, NJ. 08043.

Hughes, Robert B. and Laney, J. Carl. *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary*. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2001.

Stott, John. *Romans: God's Good News for the World*. Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1994.