

A Generous Act of Grace – Part 1

Introduction and Review

- Biblical reconciliation requires that both parties honestly face the facts & misunderstandings in love (v. 2-3)
- Working toward reconciliation brings great joy **even in times of trouble** (v. 4-5)
- Godly grief & repentance are essential in biblical reconciliation (v. 8-12)
- Biblical reconciliation brings great **comfort & joy** to everyone involved (v. 6-7, 13-16)

I. The Act of Grace in Poverty (v. 1-5)

A. A severe test of affliction (v. 1-2a)

The grace of God is active & observable in a believer's life (v. 1; 1Co. 15:10). Opposition toward believers may result in extreme poverty = test (v. 2a).

B. A wealth of generosity (v. 2b-6)

Joy & generosity are the fruit of God's grace (v. 2b). Other signs of God's grace: submitting to the Lord & His will (v. 5), sacrificial giving (v. 3) & begging to participate financially (v. 4).

By the grace of God, even believers in poverty give generously.

II. The Act of Grace in Plenty (v. 6-15)

A. A test to begin (v. 6-10)

God gives a believer the grace to excel in everything godly (v. 7). God gives a believer the grace to begin giving financially (v. 10, 6). Giving is a test of genuine love (v. 8-9).

B. A test to finish (v. 11-15)

Wealth & financial blessing test a believer's faithfulness in sacrificial giving. There are several temptations that interrupt giving: procrastination (v. 11), indecisiveness (v. 12), misinterpretation (v. 13) & misapplication (14-15).

By the grace of God, wealthy believers give generously & faithfully!