**Finding Grace**

**Grace for the Family**

**Friends past Facebook or a Friend of Grace**

5 ways our friendships can be worshipful and marked by grace

**1. Thinking humbly about yourself - (v3)**

a. Paul models humility even in his instruction

b. Notice the focus on thinking for everyone

**Romans 12:3** - *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

c. Notice the humility that comes from thinking about how even God allotted you the measure of faith that you have

**2. Having the right view of your identity (vv4-5)**

a. **Romans 12:4-5** - *For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

b. We are one body in Christ

**1 Peter 2:9-10** - *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

c. Embrace what is different

d. Embrace what brings us together

**3. Using your gifts to serve others – (vv6-8)**

a. **Romans 12:6-8** - *Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

b. Diversity of gifts evidence God’s grace

c. Friends use their gifts to build up the body instead of selfishly hoarding their talents to serve themselves.

**4. Loving one another genuinely – (vv9-13)**

a. **Romans 12:9** - *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.*

b. It is more than being nice (vv9-10)

c. It takes energy and work (vv10-11)

**Romans 12:10-11** - *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord…*

d. It is a reflection of how you serve the Lord (v11)

e. It Involves hope, tribulations and prayer

**Romans 12:12** - …*rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer…*

f. It includes meeting people’s needs and practicing hospitality

**Romans 12:13** - …*contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

**5. Fellowshipping in blessing and trials across boundaries (vv14-16)**

**a. Romans 12:14-16** - *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.*

b. Fellowship includes giving good counsel

c. Fellowship includes sharing your successes

d. Fellowship includes sharing your heartbreaks

e. Fellowship requires humility