
SERMON OUTLINE

Grace that frees me from a critical spirit Part 5 – Grace and our freedom in Christ

- I. Applying grace to what I see others do: I can be free from a critical spirit if I entrust others to God's grace (Romans 14:1-12).
 - A. I can accept others with different convictions when I realize God accepts them (14:1-3).
 - *Absolutes, convictions and preferences*
 - B. Every believer is accountable to God for their personal convictions (14:4-12).
 1. Trust God to guide others to please Him (14:4-8).
 2. Trust God to judge others if needed (14:9-12).
 - Evaluation: The real issue in my critical spirit is wanting to control others, instead of trust God.
- II. Applying grace to guide what I do: I should limit my liberty to show grace to others (Romans 14: 13-23).
 - A. Love Test: Grace means not using my freedom if it offends someone especially sensitive (14:13-18).
 - B. Edification Test: Grace means not using my freedom if it hinders someone struggling with sin (14:19-21).
 - C. Conviction Test: In my freedom, I must follow my own personal convictions to please God (14:22-23).
 - Evaluation: Flaunting my freedom comes from my sinful pride, not from God's grace.
- III. Applying grace is Christ-like (Romans 15:1-8).
 - A. Like Christ, I'll benefit others, not myself (15:1-4)
 - B. Like Christ, I must glorify God in all my relationships (15:5-6).
 - C. Like Christ, I must accept every believer (15:7-8).