

Bible Chat week starting 4 6 23

2 Corinthians 13: 11 - 14

11 Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss. 13 All God's people here send their greetings.

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1. This short passage comes at the end of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. Describe in your own words how Paul wants church life to be. How realistic is he being?
2. Verse 14 is an expression of the Christian belief in the Trinity. When you pray, do you think first of God the Father, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit? What does this reveal about your spirituality?
3. What is grace? Why do we need to know "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ"? To what extent is grace relevant to your daily life?
4. What is love? Why do we need to know the love of God - perhaps especially the love of Father God? How is God's love relevant to your daily life?
5. What is fellowship? What can it mean to know "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit"? Do you have any sense of the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in your daily life?
6. In his podcast, David said that it would be helpful if non-Christian people could learn to live by this prayer we call 'the Grace' in their daily lives. How far is modern life and debate away from the values of the Grace?
7. David also coined what he called a weaker form of the grace - a non-religious expression of its values (see below). Comment on this. Could it be used to encourage a better way of relating to each other in public life? Or should we only focus on encouraging people to accept Christ and live a full Christian life?

*May the kindness that accepts and forgives brokenness,
the preciousness of all individuals,
and the unity of all humanity,
be our experience and our guide,
for all of us,
today and always.
Let it be so!*