

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

If God Is For Us - Week 3

Dale Stephenson

Introduction

Our passage today reminds followers of Christ what it means to live in the fullness of God's grace – to know that grace is real, tangible and completely undeserved. We learn that our old way of sin has been crucified with Jesus. Our old way of living and thinking, putting ourselves ahead of others, is dead. By acknowledging Christ in this way we find a new way to live with Him. We are now under His grace and mercy; we are no longer driven by the slave driver that is sin, but instead we have life and have it abundantly.

Bible Passage

Romans 6:1-14

Discussion

1. Consider the door imagery. On one side is your self-will and 'me first' attitudes, and on the other side is God's grace and mercy. One side represents short-term self-satisfaction, the other a different way of living, a new attitude of love and acceptance. Both sides have eternal consequences. Have you gone through the door?
2. Walking through the door is a metaphor for choosing to die to self and live in Christ. Has your life changed since making that decision? Have you changed?
3. If going through the door means allowing things in ourselves to die, what needs to die, or has died, in you? Is or was that hard for you? Why?
4. How have you experienced God's mercy or grace? How has the experience impacted you? Your family?

(continued on next page)



5. Who in your life comes to mind when you consider people on the 'self' side of the door? Write their names down. Commit these people to regular prayer.
6. Sometimes we forget which side of the door we live on. We may allow shame, unforgiveness, sin, etc. to try to grab us back. Is something trying to grab at you? Write it down.

Respond

Too often we can get busy, distracted or blinded to the fact that we are no longer slaves to fear or sin. Discuss what the picture of the door means to you.

God may have shown you people in your life on the 'self' side of the door. Take a moment now to share their names and pray for them.

We can forget we live with God; emotions, fear and unforgiveness can grip us seemingly out of nowhere. Take time now to pray and listen to God, ask Him to show you if there are reasons for these feelings. Ask for forgiveness, be as specific as possible, accept His unconditional love. This is grace.

