

Join us in being on mission with God!

OUR MISSION

To help transform ordinary people into disciples of Christ by:

- . reaching up
- . growing together
- . reaching out

“The Hardest People to Pray For”

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

August 29, 2010

Why Pray for Messed-Up Saints?

❶ Because God’s grace invests in the _____ (5, 7)

A. SPECIFIC GIFTS FOR SOME (5) “all your speaking ... your knowledge”

▶ See 1 Corinthians 15:8

B. SUFFICIENT GIFTS FOR ALL (7) “you do not lack any spiritual gift”

❷ Because God’s grace _____ to truth (6) “our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you”

❸ Because God’s grace offers hope to _____ (8) “keep you strong to the end”

▶ See Philippians 1:3-6

❹ Because God’s grace reflects His _____ (8) “God...is faithful”

Growth Group Questions:

1. We all make decisions that cost us money. Maybe it’s running over something backing out the driveway. It could be dropping a cell phone in water. Or perhaps not backing up crucial data from your computer. Share one decision that you would like to undo that cost you money, time, or frustration.



1 Cor. 1:4-9

I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way - in all your speaking and in all your knowledge--⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

2. Which of the following would best describe your willingness to forgive *yourself* when you make a bad decision?
- I'm angry at myself like a barbarian on the rampage
 - I criticize myself like a picky film critic.
 - I'm like a sparkler—I sizzle for a while then pretty much go out.
 - It's like stubbing my toe. I get annoyed for the moment but then push on.
 - It's like a bug on a windshield. Things like that happen, but I don't dwell on it at all.

Describe the factors that shape your reaction to your own poor decisions. Discuss this with your group

3. How do you tend to respond to the habitual shortcomings of other people?
- It almost never bothers me. I usually try to overlook such things and compensate for the shortcomings of others.
 - It drives me nuts. I have a hard time working with people who constantly underperform or fall short. I am impatient with people like that.
 - I don't say much, but I do avoid people who have obvious shortcomings and don't seem to grow out of it
 - I usually say something to help them see what's going on and how to change in a positive way.
4. In your church experience, what are some of the most common ways Christians react to those in the church who *repeatedly* act immaturely, display selfishness, or who fail to live up to the expectations they lay on others?

5. What were some of the shortcomings of the people in the fellowship at Corinth?

1 Cor. 6:1-3 = _____

1 Cor. 5:1-2 = _____

1 Cor. 1:11-12 = _____

1 Cor. 11:33 = _____

1 Cor. 14:20 = _____

6. In what ways might the practice of prayer for “messed-up” Christians change the normal way you respond to them?

7. If you were the “messed-up” one, how would you want others to pray for you?

Response Questions:

- Where do I overlook God's generosity to me?
- What is God currently trying to show me that I resist seeing?
- What parts of my “last chapter” have I written prematurely?
- How would I act differently if I never doubted God's loyalty?

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