

2013-09-29 5G Sermon 4 Grateful

A 5G Church is a Grateful Church

Gratitude: A heart attitude of joy motivated by a benefit received that returns expressions of appreciation for joy of the benefactor.

**1. Gratefulness is the antidote to grumbling.**

We must all choose to be Grateful or Grumble.

**There is no shortage of things to grumble about. Gratefulness changes my perspective.**

Philippians 2:14-15 *Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*

1 Thess. 5:18-19 *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.*

James MacDonald: Gratitude is the attitude that sets the altitude for living.

**God takes ungratefulness seriously.**

1 Corinthians 10:9-10

*We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.*

1 Corinthians 10:11 *Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.*

**A lack of gratefulness begins a downward spiral into the worst kinds of sins.**

Romans 1:29-30 *...evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.*

Romans 1:21 *Although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him...*

2 Tim 3:2 *For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful...*

**Shhhh! The prisoners are listening**

Acts 16:25

*About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,*

**2. Gratefulness is the expression of a heart made clean.**

**Luke 17:11-19** - A Thanksgiving with Nine Turkeys.

v. 11-12 Our uncleanness creates distance.

Before Christ we were...

- Sin Sick
- Infected with Terminal Disease
- Dead in trespasses and sins
- Separated from the life of God
- Enemies and strangers to God – “of another kind”
- Under the wrath of God
- Doomed to pay the just penalty for my sin in Hell throughout eternity.

v. 13-14 God’s mercy closes the distance.

v. 15-16 Thanksgiving always puts my face at Jesus’ feet. I will choose to worship or I will choose to whine.

v. 17-18 Where are the other nine? 90% are satisfied with the benefits of Jesus without giving praise for the Lordship of Jesus.

### **Worship is the vertical response of a grateful heart.**

Gratefulness to God is expressed in prayer, praise, shouts, songs, attention, and evangelism. Praise is expressing approval, affirmation, and gratefulness to God.

*Heb. 12:28-29 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*

Reasons to be Grateful...

- He created us.
- He created the world for us to enjoy.
- He became a man for us.
- He resisted temptation for us.
- He endured insults for us.
- He became our substitute on the cross.
- He conquered death for us.
- He rescued us from sin.
- He pardoned us from judgment.
- He has delivered us from Hell.
- He has given us His spirit to enable us.
- He has preserved His word for us.
- He defends us from our enemies.
- He provides health for us.
- He rebukes the enemy for us.
- He lives to make intercession for us.
- He has prepared a place in heaven for us.

### **3. Gratefulness expressed to others acknowledges the greatness of God.**

Gratefulness is expressed both vertically and horizontally.

Gratefulness begins with the recognition of greatness.

**Gratefulness recognizes the greatness of God in others.**

*2Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.*

Gratefulness expressed to others is another way of expressing gratefulness to God. When we see patience, diligence, love, kindness, forgiveness, courage...we are seeing the greatness of God stamped on a person. We are commending God-likeness in others. We should commend the commendable. Be on the outlook for those things which are good, right, beautiful, growing, and healthy. Call them out verbally, note them, mark them, call others attention to them. We can do this even in unbelievers.

**Gratefulness affirms the greatness of God in others.**

Affirmation is the horizontal response of a grateful heart.

The lack of affirmation destroys families, churches, and organizations. When things that are commendable are overlooked, people will move toward others who commend them. They stop listening.

We need to slow down to affirm others. We need to stop to acknowledge and express the greatness of God we see in others by affirming them.

**Gratefulness grows the greatness of God in others.**

Gratefulness has the power to change behavior. When you affirm something good in others you reinforce that behavior in them. Affirmation gains us a hearing. People tend to be influenced by the people who praise them.

Gratefulness has the power to change my perspective. When we choose to focus on the things that demand praise we have no time to focus on the negative.

Unexpressed gratefulness is ungratefulness