

Series: Rocklane Disciple.

Sermon: “It is grace, nothing but grace”

Primary texts: James 5:16; Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:1-2; Acts 2:44-45; Ephesians 4:15-16, Genesis 3

Discussion Guide:

- Read 2 Timothy 1:4, 1 Thessalonians 3:10, and 2 John 12.
 - What do all of these have in common?
 - Why do they feel so strongly about seeing their Christian brethren?
 - How does this differ from today?
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, *“Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God’s grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank god on his knees and declare: **It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.**”*
 - How is Christian community grace?
- In the sermon it was stated that Christian community is not an ideal but rather a divine reality.
 - What is an ideal?
 - How do some see Christian community as an ideal?
 - Bonhoeffer writes, *“He who loves his dream of a community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter...”*
 - How or why is this true?
 - Bonhoeffer writes, *“It is not the experience of Christian brotherhood, but solid and certain faith in brotherhood that holds us together... We are bound together by faith, not by experience.”*
 - What is his point?
 - How does seeing Christianity as an ideal destroy Christian community?
 - Why does seeing it as a reality matter?
- Read James 5:16; Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:1-2; Acts 2:44-45; Ephesians 4:15-16.
 - What do these things say about the importance to transparency to Christian life?
 - Why is transparency important?
 - How does it make your Christian walk more authentic?
 - Read Gen. 3:7-13
 - What are the first three things that happen after they eat of the tree?
 - How does this relate to transparency?
- What ideals get in the way of Christian community?
- How can we go about fostering an environment at church where people feel comfortable being transparent?