



gracefellowship

All In
August 18, 2019

:: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Introduction: What are the things in your life that you would say you're "all in" for?

- Sitcom on TV
- Work project
- Relationship
- Book series
- Hopefully you would say your faith in Jesus!

Paul was all in when it came to following Jesus and he wrote to the church in Corinth to encourage them in what it looked like to be more than a casual Christian, but to be all in.

:: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

1 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.

2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;

6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;

9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;

10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts

to you.

12 We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us.

13 As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also.

As Paul is writing to the Corinthian church, he had told them in the previous chapter about the ministry of reconciliation we have all been given as followers of Jesus. Because Jesus reconciled us to God, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation- to tell the world God is not counting our sins against us, but has given us a way to be saved from our sins and to have eternal peace with God through an abiding relationship with Jesus.

In chapter 6, verse 1 Paul tells the Corinthians not to receive God's grace in vain. In other words, Paul is telling us that just receiving God's grace for ourselves is not the end goal of grace; we are to work diligently to share that gift of grace with as many people as we can. To be given the grace of God and then keep it to ourselves would be like finding the cure to cancer and not sharing it with anyone! It doesn't matter that the cure exists if you keep it to yourself- finding it was in vain.

Paul wants disciples of Jesus to be all in when it comes to the life they have discovered in Jesus and to make that life known to others. That's why he follows in verses 3-11 with a description of what it means to him to be all in with Jesus. Paul knows that following Jesus is not going to be easy, and yet, he calls us to a life of obedience and faithfulness regardless of the circumstances. Too many people think that becoming a follower of Jesus means that all your troubles are going to go away.

- Your marriage will get better.
- The problems with your kids will be fixed.
- You'll get that promotion at work.
- The sickness will go away.

But Jesus never promised us those things. In fact, Jesus said anyone who wanted to be all in with Him would have to deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow Him. Now listen again to how Paul says his life following Jesus has gone:

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Paul knew what it meant to be all in with Jesus. It didn't matter what life threw at Paul, he was going to remain faithful to Jesus. If things were good, he was obedient to Jesus. If things were bad, he was true to his faith in Jesus.

When you think about the life of grace that God has called you to, you need to ask yourself if you're all in. Paul would not have been able to commend himself in these ways if his focus wasn't continually on Jesus. This doesn't mean Paul was perfect, and to follow Jesus we don't have to be perfect either. But it does mean that we have to strive every day to put Jesus at the center of everything we do.

Vision:

As a church we are moving into a new budget year and the beginning of a new calendar year. We typically think of our operating year going from August to July. Entering this year I've been sharing with our Elders and Staff what God has been laying on my heart for the coming year and we have been discussing what it means to be "all in" as a church when it comes to the focus of the upcoming ministry year.

At Grace Fellowship...

1. We are all in as a disciple-making church.

:: Matthew 4:19

A disciple follows Jesus, is being changed by Jesus and is on mission with Jesus.

Know // Grow // Go

Head // Heart // Hands

Life Groups provide a vehicle to put people in our church under intentional leaders in a relational environment with a biblical foundation for the purpose of reproducing the process.

Last year we had 8 groups; this year we have 11 groups; we have a goal of 15 groups by next August!

Life Groups are not the end all goal of disciple-making. Being in a group is great

and we hope everyone finds their place to engage relationally in one of our groups. But we are not just disciples of Jesus at church! We also want every individual finding ways to live out their faith in the places God has put you (home, work, school, community) with the goal of making Jesus known and helping people move through the stages of spiritual maturity until they are able to make disciples themselves. (Dead, Child, Infant, Young Adult, Parent)

(Slide of Discipleship Wheel)

2. We are all in for families.

* New hires to equip and minister to families

- Student Pastor

- Team 56

- Children's Pastor

* Help needed during interim and moving forward in G2. (Introduce Rena and Rachel)

How has serving with children impacted your life and what benefit do you see this ministry having in our church?

How can people engage with our Children's Ministry and where do you need immediate help?

What kind of commitment is involved to serve on Sunday mornings?

* Marriage Conference (late winter)

* Teaching series on Marriage and Parenting (spring and summer)

3. We are all in concerning missions.

2020 Mission: We want everyone who calls GFC home to have the opportunity to engage in missions by the year 2020.

Local

National

International

Going/ Giving/ Praying/ Encouraging

Since we put this challenge out 2 years ago we have seen almost 100 people participate in a mission trip and an unknown number of you have supported missions through prayer, financial donations and encouraging team members!

Not only that, but our Generosity Sunday was the highest giving week we've had to date. We have been able to impact lives and ministries through the financial gifts you have made.

4. We are all in as stewards.

Paying down debt

Making enhancements internally and externally

* Bathrooms / Family Bathroom

- * Worship Center
- * Pavilion
- * Playground
- * Hillside on drive given facelift with plants and small trees
- * Den Updates
- * Potential enclosure of the patio area and growth on the front of our building for small group space and meeting space.

5. We are all in concerning the Word of God and corporate prayer.

:: Acts 6:1-4

The Word of God directs how we think, live and believe. We must be grounded in God's truth so that we are not thrown off guard by the emotions of our hearts and the pull of our culture.

I've been convicted lately that too often our times are prayer in worship services act more like fillers between things rather than deep, heart-felt times of prayer that engages our body. We want to utilize our worship services to pray and ask God to move in our personal lives, in our community and in our world.

- * Prayer Team – First service weekly

:: Hebrews 10:19-25

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Prayer: Ask God to show us where He wants us to be all in and to give us a bigger picture of where we can engage our community and world as a church and as individuals.