

November 16 & 17, 2019



Last Week

We have a tendency to be greedy.  
It's a better life to be generous.

We have a tendency to be grudge.  
It's a better life to be gracious.

Proverbs 19:11 *Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.*

I would prefer to hold things over people rather than they hold anything over me.

- When I hold something over another person, I call it justice.
- When they hold something over me, I call it a lack of being gracious.

I am subconsciously glad when someone wrongs me because I then feel I have authority.

1 Peter 2:18-19 *Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.*

Being gracious understands that maximum freedom is best found when you submit yourselves under authority.

1 Peter 2:19 *For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.*

Being gracious endures suffering that may be unjust, even when we've done nothing wrong.

1 Peter 2:20 *For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.*

Being gracious is rewarded and seen by God.

1 Peter 2:21-23 *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*

Being gracious to others means following the example of Christ when He didn't hold your sin over your head.

There's a Better Life!  
Extend an umbrella of grace instead of a pot of retribution!